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The Largest Weekly Sportfishing Magazine in the United States!

October 14th, 1982 ★ Volume 17, Number 41 ★ 17th Year of Publishing ★ SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS

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Volume 17, Number 41 **October 14th, 1982**

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About the Cover:

A dropper fished ahead of an artificial often increases the effectiveness of the lure as this big striper proves. If the surf is your bag, see page 16 for tips on how to make a dropper work for you. Cover by Frank Daignault.

COMING NEXT WEEK: **INFORMATION ON UPCOMING ELECTION**

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Pete Barrett CONTRIBUTING EDITOR
W.A. Muller MANAGING EDITOR
Stu Miller ADVERTISING MANAGER
Tim Coleman CONTRIBUTING EDITOR
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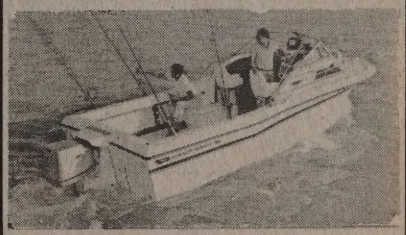

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CHARVIN OPEN COD TOURNEY

Lou Stalker of Lou's Fishing Station announces that the station is holding the 1st Annual Charvin Open Cod Tournament on Nov. 20 (weather date, Nov. 21). Entry fee is $100 per boat. Nothing will be held back; 100% of the entry fees collected will go back in the form of cash prizes. For further info, call Lou's Fishing Station, (516) 378-8748.

RESULTS OF '82 MARYLAND BASS SURVEY COMPLETE

The final figures for the 1982 Maryland young of the year survey for striped bass are now complete. The average figure per haul is 8.4, the same as it was in 1978 and represents a fair year class.

This past spring, Maryland had a ban on fishing in spawning areas, the first such ban since 1978 when a more comprehensive ban was in effect. Although by no means the only factor involved, it is significant that these two year classes show the only fair results since the early 1970s.

The distribution of the small stripers has changed over the last few years. This year's best results were obtained in the Potomac and Choptank Rivers and not in the upper bay, which traditionally has been the best area for striped bass reproduction. This year's results were better in the upper bay than last year, but were still disappointing.

The young striped bass are growing at an unprecedented rate and have done so for the last few years, possibly due to the fact that there is so little competition for food since the shad have disappeared and white perch are in such low abundance. This means that they are reaching the legal length of 12 inches TL during the fall of the second year of their life, rather than in the summer of the third year. Thus, they are available to the fishery six months earlier than usualy. This, combined with the rising market price is producing a severe over-exploitation of the last good year class available.

Since 1978 there has not been a significant year class, indeed, 1981 was the worst year class on record. There is, therefore, no backup stock to keep the fishery supplied after the 1978 year class is depleted.

The pressure on the 1978 year class has been unprecedented all up and down the Atlantic coast. The 1978 year class is not due to return to Maryland to spawn until 1984 and prospects do not look good for it's survival until then. Between now and the spring of 1984, heavy exploitation of this year class will continue since several states have, as yet, taken no action to protect them and some states, to their shame, have taken only meaningless, token measures.

GLEN COVE SNAPPER DERBY RESULTS

The Glen Cove Mayor's Annual Snapper Derby was held on Aug. 21, 1982 and it was some blast. A beautiful sunny day with 250 happy kids and plenty of big snappers. All contestants enjoyed free hot dogs, soda, and a tournament T shirt. Prizes for the well-deserving anglers were rod and reel combinations, reels, trophies and other goodies.

The outstanding angler was David Nesdall (12). Guest winner was Larry Bombace, 14. Junior winners were Alexander Athan (6); David Kurowski (10) and Robert Kormoski (9).

Senior winners were John Martin (12); Angelo Valensisi (14) and Mike Morra (12).

The day was topped off with the Queen Elizabeth II passing in view.

Sponsors for the derby were the Glen Cove Anglers' Club, Matinecock Rod and Gun Club, Glen Cove Recreation Dept. and many generous local merchants.

MANHATTAN BASED FISHING COURSE TO RUN FOR EIGHT WEEKS

Guy De Blasio and Al Ristori will be running their second Manhattan-based fishing course of the year starting on Tuesday, October 26 and continuing each Tuesday through December 21. The eight-week course will provide inside information on various types of Metropolitan Area fishing from experts in each field.

Guy De Blasio will kick things off with a session on Hudson and East River fishing, at which time Byron Young of the NYS DEC will also discuss the biological aspects of this underexploited fishery. Following will be seminars with Capt. Kevin Bradshaw (Dorothy B.) on party boat bottom fishing; Capt. Al Coley (Betty W) on party boat top-water fishing and jigging; Capt. Ronnie Lepper (Kim) on Metropolitan Area striper fishing; Al Ristori on offshore fishing; Ken Moran on local blues and weaks; John Lober on tackle; and Fred Golofaro on surf casting.

Classes will be limited to about 30 in order to provide a maximum of personal attention. Door prizes and various materials will be provided. The site is P.S. 41 at West 11th St.,

between 6th and 7th Avenues—and courses will run from 7:30 to 9:30 PM. The fee is $100 (kids half price) and checks should be sent to Guy De Blasio, 132 Thompson St., New York, NY 10012; (212) 473-5377.

UTILITIES SIGN CONTRACT FOR HUDSON RIVER HATCHERY

Hopefully, the striped bass population in the Hudson River will get a boost next year when a new striped bass hatchery begins operating.

The Consolidated Edison Company (Con Ed) of New York has signed a contract with Ecological Analysts, Inc. to operate the largest indoor striped bass hatchery in the nation. It will produce about 600,000 fish a year.

A building used by Con Ed as a laboratory for biological studies of the Hudson River in Verplanck, N.Y., will be converted for the hatchery operation. Design specifications for the building, are now being completed and construction will be in full swing this summer. The hatchery is scheduled to be fully operational by May, 1983.

The Verplanck hatchery will operate for five months each year beginning in May. The fish will be released when they reach a length of three inches, sometime between late August and mid-September. Once released, many of the striped bass will remain in the river for several years before venturing to the ocean. Afterwards, the fish should return to the Hudson River each spring to spawn.

Agreement to construct the hatchery ended a controversial 1975 EPA proposal that the five New York State utility companies build a total of six cooling towers at four wholly or jointly owned electric generating plants on the Hudson River.

Two of the 400-foot high cooling towers would have been required at the Bowline Point plant in Haverstraw, N.Y. owned by Orange & Rockland Utilities (O&R) and Con Ed. In a statement of opposition to the towers in 1979, O&R estimated that its share of the Bowline Point towers would have been $26 million in construction costs, plus a $7.6 million a year in operating costs. The construction and eight-year period of operation of the hatchery will cost a total of $5.8 million. O&R's share of the cost for the eight years is $600,000.

Besides O&R and Con Ed, the other companies participating in the venture are Central Hudson Gas and Electric Corporation, Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation and the Power Authority of the State of New York.

Construction and operation of the striped bass hatchery is a provision of the December 1980 formal settlement agreement among the five utilities, the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and certain other parties.

SFI is deeply concerned with this settlement. It appears that an unknown quantity, i.e., the effectiveness of the striped bass stocking program, has been swapped "quid pro quo" for license to thermally pollute the Hudson River.

The effectiveness of the stocking program must be closely monitored. If it is not demonstrated that the program meets or exceeds net production of striped bass lost to thermal pollution, the cooling towers should be reconsidered. (Reprinted courtesy Sport Fishing Institute)

ATTENTION FISHERMEN

The Post Fishing Club sponsored by the American Legion Post 1120, Herbert Street, Lindenhurst, has openings for avid fishermen. We have approximately 12 trips a year for blues, fluke, weaks, flounder, cod and blackfish. Also, we have a family trip and award dance once a year. Anyone interested, please call:
Raymond Joyce, 888-2384
Raymond Terris, 226-2451
Tony Zuk (Commodore), JU 7-5753
or stop by the American Legion Hall on Herbert Street, Lindenhurst, first Sunday of the month at 1PM for full details.

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DOING SOMETHING ABOUT THE WEATHER

by Al Ristori

The author discusses some of the problems and solutions concerning an ever present nemesis to boatmen.

There's an old saying about the weather to the effect that "everyone always talks about the weather, but no one does anything about it." Unfortunately, there really isn't much we can do about the weather, though there is a lot of room for improvement in the area of weather forecasting.

A meeting at the New York Sea Grant Center in Riverhead back on September 9 addressed the very problems that all anglers are only too familiar with. The offshore weather forecasts leave much to be desired, and there are some areas where it's hard to get a forecast at all. Therefore, there are two problem areas which must be dealt with: (1) the reception of weather information, and (2) methods of improving that information.

For Long Island, the best marine weather information comes from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio in New York City. However, the range of that station is only about 40 or 50 miles (depending on atmospheric conditions), and the area from Moriches east must get their weather radio reports from the Hartford office. That report is more oriented toward Long Island Sound and often reports conditions that are the opposite of those actually being experienced by anglers on the south shore. Fishermen working the canyons can sometimes pick up the weather from Atlantic City which is deemed the best for mariners of any of the area weather offices.

The solution to the reception problem on eastern Long Island is a relatively simple and fairly inexpensive one. All that's required is a transmitter and antenna in the area. It seems that the tower is already available in Riverhead. An unused RCA antenna located on Radio Hill is now owned by the state and would be available for this purpose. The transmitter and its maintenance would involve some cost, though the Weather Service officials at the meeting estimated a first year outlay of only about $25,000—followed by $10,000 to $12,000 in maintenance in years to come.

There are two sticking points. First of all, NOAA has no funds for this effort. The only way to obtain funding is to get our congressmen interested in the problem. The dollars involved are so small that I can't imagine any problem which would prevent the funding of an east end transmitter—if the boaters of the area make known their desires! That's especially the case now, as it's an election year. Most of the territory that would benefit from the transmitter is included in the east end Congressional district of Rep. William Carney. It's also likely that the Suffolk south shore areas represented by Congressman Tom Downey would also get much better reception. In addition, Senators Moynihan and D'Amato should be made aware of this problem.

Ironically, even congressional intervention may not solve the problem immediately. According to the Weather Service people, the transmitters they use come from a bankrupt company and are almost impossible to obtain and repair these days. They also pointed out what when NOAA Weather Radio started it was basically concerned with marine forecasts. However, it now covers about 95% of the country and caters to a great variety of interests. Among other things, they do aviation and farming forecasts. For instance, the Hartford station provides a drying forecast for farmers. All of that has changed the orientation of the programs and made them somewhat less valuable to the mariner.

The second problem is how to improve the forecasts. I came to this meeting after taking a beating on a return trip from the tuna grounds east of Block Island to Montauk. The weather forecast was for 10-15 mph southwest winds, but it blew up to 25 mph that afternoon and kicked up a very choppy sea. Unfortunately, there's probably not too much hope of avoiding similar situations in the future. The Weather Service officials readily conceded that forecasting weather is more of an art than a science. They never expect to be completely accurate, but they would like to have a lot more information to work with.

Getting that information isn't a simple or inexpensive task at present. Two ocean buoys are due to be placed south of Shinnecock in October, though they will transmit only wave height information. One will be about 10 miles offshore and the other at 80 miles. The information that would be of the greatest assistance would be that supplied on the spot by fishermen. NOAA has been trying to set up something of this sort for years. A few years ago they arranged a reporting system with fishermen out of the Boston office, but got no response at all. Then a violent storm hit during November, 1980 in which four boats and four lives were lost. That served as the spur to get the Mariner's Weather Reporting program (MAREP) rushed into existence.

The initial effort was with the Point Judith Fishermen's Cooperative, in conjunction with the university of Rhode Island Sea Grant Program. A radio station was established at the co-op's Galilee offices which consisted of their own single sideband radio and a Xerox telecopier, which was purchased by the National Weather Service. Co-op personnel obtain weather conditions from the far-flung fleet at 7AM and noon and, in return, issue the revised forecasts provided by NOAA over the same single sideband.

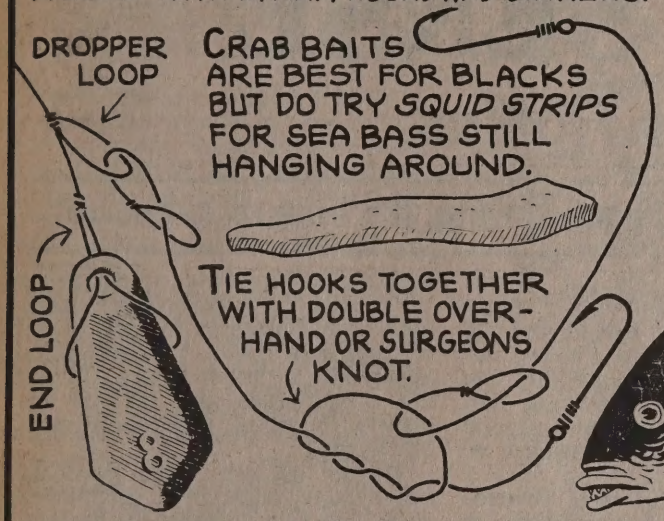
The Weather Service would like to expand this reporting system and bring in the party and charter boats—as well as the huge recreational fleet. Just how to do this within the present fiscal constraints is a real problem. NOAA would like to see a marina or tackle shop with a powerful VHF take the reports and transmit them to Manhattan. While that may be possible, it would be a burden on whatever business volunteered to help out. It seems to me that the ideal solution would be for the Weather Service to install a VHF at their offices in Rockefeller Center. This would provide them with tremendous range and allow them to get the information directly—and with no time gaps. Since the office is manned by only three or four people, it's not possible to do this right now. However, if Congress were to get interested in the problem all of that could change rapidly. There would be no need for a professional to take these VHF reports. Part-time employees could do the job nicely at

(Continued on page 34.)

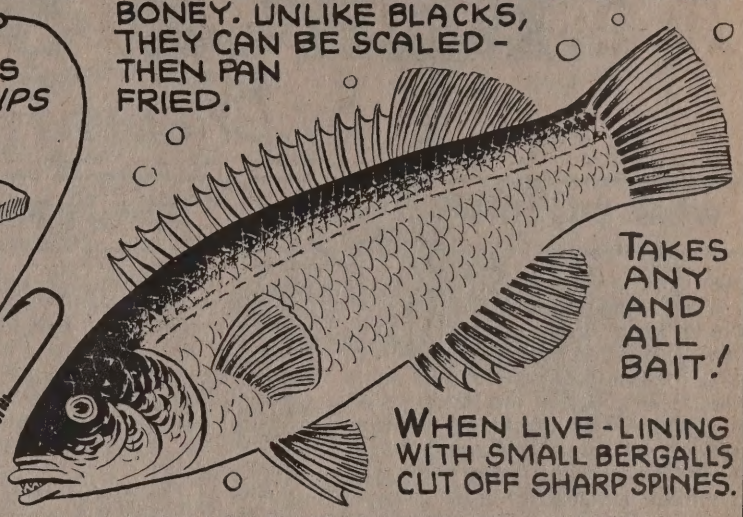
FISHERMAN TIPS

BY FRED GUARDINEER

BLACKFISH NO HARDWARE RIGS ARE LESS LIKELY TO HANG UP, BUT BE PREPARED WITH EXTRA HOOKS AND SINKERS.


DROPPER LOOP
END LOOP
CRAB BAITS ARE BEST FOR BLACKS BUT DO TRY *SQUID STRIPS* FOR SEA BASS STILL HANGING AROUND.
TIE HOOKS TOGETHER WITH DOUBLE OVER-HAND OR SURGEONS KNOT.

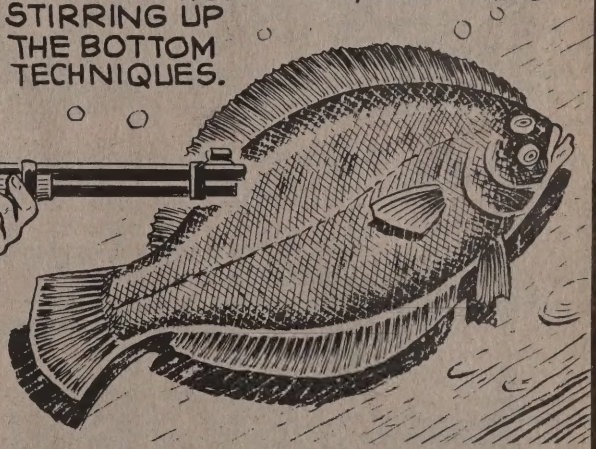
BIG BERGALLS (*CUNNERS*) USUALLY CAUGHT WHEN BLACKFISH OR WRECK FISHING ARE GOOD EATING ALTHOUGH BONEY. UNLIKE BLACKS, THEY CAN BE SCALED - THEN PAN FRIED.



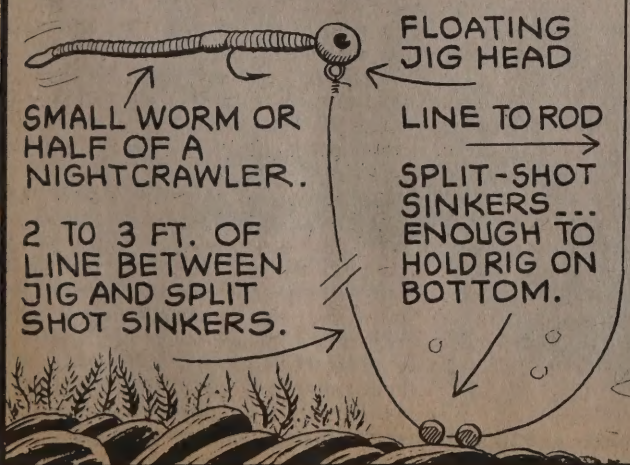
WHEN LIVE-LINING WITH SMALL BERGALLS CUT OFF SHARP SPINES.

WHEN YOU SIGHT IN YOUR DEER RIFLE USE THE SAME LOADS YOU HUNT WITH. USING OLD AMMO FOR SIGHTING, THEN HUNTING WITH A DIFFERENT LOAD ALMOST ALWAYS RESULTS IN SHOTS GOING HIGHER OR LOWER.

FALL FLOUNDERS WILL LIKELY BE IN THE SAME SPOTS YOU CAUGHT THEM LAST SPRING USING THE SAME SEAWORM BAIT, CHUM AND STIRRING UP THE BOTTOM TECHNIQUES.



BLUEGILLS AND OTHER PANFISH CAN BE TAKEN ON THIS RIG USING A FLOATING JIG HEAD IN LAKES AND SLOW MOVING RIVERS.


FLOATING JIG HEAD
SMALL WORM OR HALF OF A NIGHTCRAWLER.
LINE TO ROD
SPLIT-SHOT SINKERS... ENOUGH TO HOLD RIG ON BOTTOM.
2 TO 3 FT. OF LINE BETWEEN JIG AND SPLIT SHOT SINKERS.

WHEN YOU CATCH A BIG EEL AND YOU PLAN TO KEEP IT FOR EATING, DON'T WASTE TIME AND EFFORT TRYING TO REMOVE THE HOOK - ESPECIALLY AT NIGHT. CUT OFF THE HOOK AND RECOVER IT LATER WHEN YOU CLEAN YOUR CATCH.

PRACTICE A LITTLE BEACH SENSE

by Charlie Hollins

When this veteran "beach rat" talks beach driving, it's time to listen up!

Those mobile sport fishermen among us who spend most of their leisure time on Long Island's beaches, have been witness to numerous incidents of abuse, inconsideration and in some cases, destruction of the beach itself. To mention the abuse to vehicles operated in these areas only compounds the lack of intelligence of the individuals involved in these actions.

On the other hand, there are those who are simply ignorant of proper beach driving procedures and courtesy. Their only need is to be properly educated in the "ways of the beach."

For starters, there is no need to go out and spend exorbitant prices for large "dune digger" tires and "mag" wheels for Blazers, Ram Chargers, pickups and carryalls! These tires do absolutely nothing for you except to tear up the beach and put an unnecessary load on your vehicle, to say nothing about what it does to your gas mileage. An ordinary pickup not being used to haul a camper, and the carryall versions of vehicles can operate more efficiently with a good 9:15x15 or 9.75x16.5 standard or radial type tire.

Most of the operators of vehicles with big tires feel it is unnecessary to deflate tires to travel over sand. Even after they bury all four wheels they still hesitate to let air out, mainly because they do not have any source of air supply to pump up when they leave the beach or, are too lazy to pump up by hand. This is one of the main reasons they purchase the big tires and rims. Little do they realize you can equip the vehicle with an automotive type air conditioning compressor, air hose and tire gauge for a small fraction of the cost of the big tires and wheels. This allows the opportunity to deflate before entering the beach areas and permits the vehicle to travel over sand more efficiently.

Another big plus when travelling over sand is staying in an established track. This not only eases the requirements of your engine, but also results in a less "chopped up" beach.

Despite the season we will still see the "day trippers" on the beach. These are the beach-goers who just come over to ride and see what is going on. Occasionally one will stop and ask "How's fishing?" These people have an equal right to the use of the area and should be given consideration.

Standard 9:15x15 tires will get you to the fish just as effectively as those infamous "dune grabbers" with a lot less wear and tear to your buggy and the beach.

Fishermen themselves are no exception to the rules of common decency and cooperation. When one knows that a run has started, or that a particular area is producing, share the information with other fishermen. We complain that the gill netters and haul seiners are taking all the fish. Yet, we as individuals are reluctant to tell our fellow sport fishermen, for fear that we will be crowded out of our favorite spot.

When chasing a school of fish, let's try to park our vehicles in some sort of orderly manner. Sure, we don't want to miss the action, but think how mad you get when you are hemmed in by surrounding vehicles or have to leave the track because of rigs haphazardly parked there.

Did you ever get a flat on the beach because someone broke a glass container and left it there? Maybe you got stuck by an old rusty fishhook while you were probing around in the sand looking for your last leader or snap swivel. How many times did you have to hold up your cast because a buggy was approaching too close to you, or someone decided to chew the fat on the wrong side of you? Ever get hit by a jig or plug because the caster wasn't looking? Believe me, all these things have and invariably will happen.

One of our biggest problems on the beach today is the never ending exploitation of various groups (bird watchers, campers, bathers, nudist groups, etc.) to eliminate the sport fishing community from the beaches. Especially the fishermen who have invested heavily in a dependable vehicle and equipment for their needs. These groups have a vast supply of literature, photos and so-called statistics that only emphasize the antics of the "I don't give a damn" sector. I have never, nor do I ever expect to, see any testimonials by or from these groups portraying the concern of dedicated fishermen.

It is evident that in order for us to continue to enjoy the use of our beaches for mobile sport fishing, we, as individuals, must assume the responsibilities of educating the public as to proper beach etiquette. True, it may take away some of our time that could be spent fishing, but I would rather see it this way than to lose all my fishing time to these groups. Try to stress the importance of leaving the beaches not as you found them, but more to the way that you would like to see them. If one is unfamiliar with any of the requirements of good etiquette, proper operations on the beach or the proper outfitting of a sport fishing vehicle, contact a local fishing club or beach buggy organization representative in your area. They are only too willing to offer sound advice.

Above all, familiarize yourself with the local ordinances pertaining to fishing in the areas you use. It is imperative that you obey the regulations for your own, and everyone's benefit.

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PARTY BOAT FISHING: BACK WHEN...

by Matt Ahern

Open boat fishing by today's standards is a far cry from days gone by!

Over a half-century ago Captain Steve Wischerth sailed his party boat, Fidus from Stahle's Pier at the Canarsie Shore. The Fidus was a converted World War I subchaser. Black of hull and sleek of line, she was 110 feet long, with an approximate 20-foot beam. I have fond memories of the Fidus, for not only was she fast and seaworthy as its class proclaimed, she was the first party boat I fished from as a boy. (Oh happy day!)

The fishing scene has certainly changed since then, and it is not surprising that today's party boat fishing should be a far cry from that of 50 years ago.

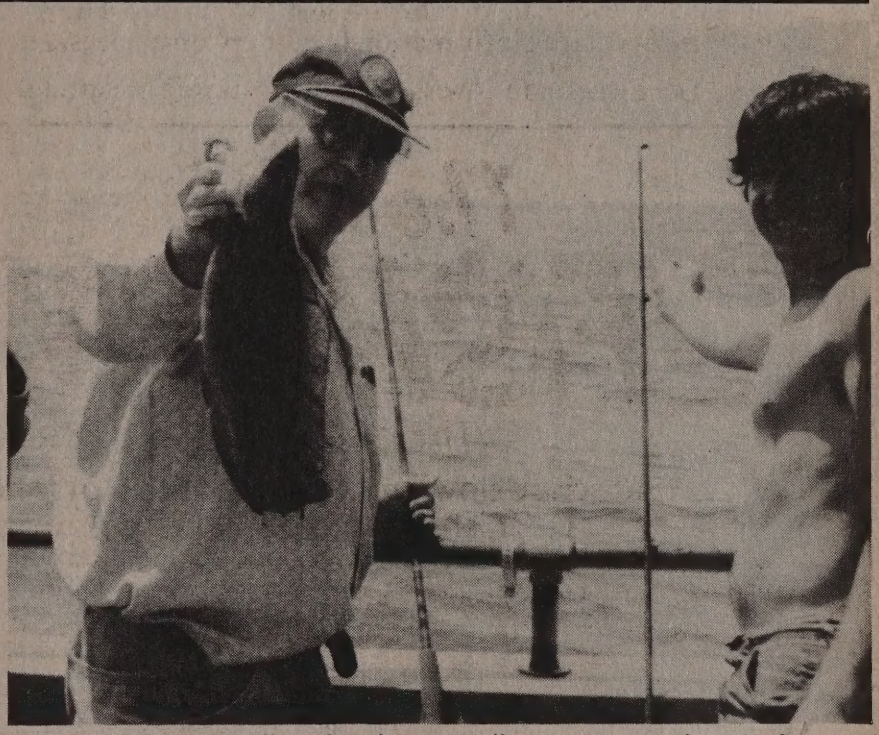
For instance, there were no heated rails for us codfish fanatics then (oh those poor, frostbitten fingers!); no radar or other electronics for ease of navigation or fish-finding (once you were out there, brother, you were on your own...although some boats did bring along carrier pigeons for use if trouble occurred); no TV to watch to and from the grounds; no comfortable, heated lounge to rest one's weary bones after a hectic day's fishing (we had only a pot-belly stove situated below in a cramped forward cabin; and with few exceptions, no bunks or restaurants on board.

You might say party boat fishing a half-century ago was as rugged as the times that existed. But we poor fellows bravely took the discomfort and attendant danger in stride, for we didn't know anything else and therefore cheerfully accepted what by today's standards could be classified as being akin to a caveman existence. But we were happy as all get out. Truly, ignorance is bliss.

But we more than made up for it, for we certainly had the fish.

Name the fish of your choice. Cod? Those days it was no sweat. Fluke? Child's play. Sea bass? Porgies? Bring potato sacks. Blackfish? Excellent then, and remaining so today. (But this is only because blackfish are not easily captured commercially.) Ling and whiting? The bread and butter fish of early springtime. Literally by the ton. Mackerel? Bluefish? I can't tell you about these because we never fished for them. But all those bottom feeders mentioned were certainly easy pickings.

Now, because of this wealth of fish, you can understand why I then considered myself the luckiest kid alive—especially so today when I recall those wondrous days. I loved my childhood with a passion (I had every reason not to, for there were grim times abroad on the land). And, you know, it is those fishing memories which sustain me to this day—particularly so when I get into that blue funk we all fall heir to, that blue funk which insists all is dross and nothing worthwhile. All I need do then is bring forth those fishing records written with those childlike impressions of long ago. In minutes I am transported and overwhelmed with proof of the good life, and without fail I thank the "Powers-That-Be" for giving me the sense and fortitude to live as I have.



Any old-timer can tell you how important ling were to open boat anglers a half century ago.

But let's get back to our long ago party boat fishing—the way it was.

My first party boat catch consisted of ling. And because of this, ling have always held a fond spot in my fishing heart. I caught 25 ling that day. And I loved every minute of it!

I also remember how I tried several times to coax my three fishing buddies, Jimmy Anderson, Aaron Feldman, and Artie Leidecker to join me. But they were shrewd enough and willing enough to wait until they'd seen the result of that first trip. I really couldn't blame them for that, for those days a dollar was hard to come by and I suppose they figured a buck in the hand was worth two in the bush. And if they had a dumb-bunny friend primed and ready to test the unknown, what could they lose?

The evening before I had borrowed a drop line from one of the neighborhood old-timers, and very early the next morning I was out of bed before the alarm went off, refusing breakfast over the objections of my mother. (I didn't want **anything** to slow me down.) Twenty minutes later I was standing on the BMT subway platform waiting for the Canarsie-bound train to show. I was on my way.

Exiting at the Rockaway Parkway

(Continued on next page.)

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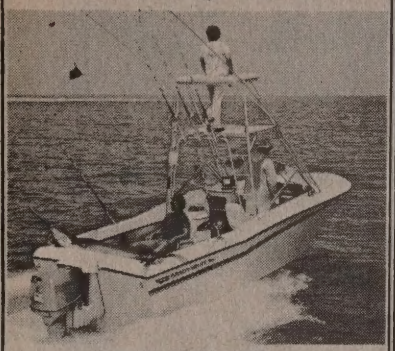

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terminus of the line along with several dozen other fishermen, I boarded that grand old Toonerville Trolley so many old-timers still fondly recall. Arriving at the Canarsie Shore, I followed the eager fishermen as they trudged through Golden City Amusement Park, which I was to do hundreds of times in the future.

As I approached the waterfront, I was confronted with a minor problem. Which boat should I go on? Was one better at fish-catching than another? Well...follow along and see what happened. I remember there was the Pioneer II on the left, followed by the Tambo II, and then the Rose R II, their mates loudly hawking the fishing ability of each boat.

To the right of these boats, sort of tucked away, lay a gangplank which led to two other boats. Maybe I better look them over, too. The first in line was the Zoraya and ahead of it lay the Fidus. I noticed those fishermen who had crossed the gangplank headed for the Fidus. That was good enough for me.

I went aboard with them and watched with much interest as they selected fishing spots and tied rods to the rail. When they went for the butter tubs stacked in the stern, I followed suit. I lifted one free and carried it to about midships on the port side. I then placed my drop line in the butter tub and waited for the boat to get underway. Except for one lone fisherman some ten feet from me, I was all alone.

Some few minutes later a major problem arose. A red-haired giant of a man dressed in well-worn yellow oilskins approached me.

"H'ya, son," he greeted. "Name's Red. I'm the mate. You alone? No one with you?"

"No, sir," I replied. "All alone."

"Um-m-m-m. You're sure a little tyke. How old are you?"

"I'll be twelve in two weeks," I said, wondering what the reason was for that question.

"You'll be twelve in two weeks. Sure gettin' up there, ain't you. Well...you wait right here. I'll be back."

In minutes he was back with another man. "This is the captain," Red explained. "He wants to talk to you."

I looked up into the kindly face of a husky middle-aged man dressed in a Navy pea jacket. The one thing that fascinated me most about him was not so much the piercing blue eyes, but his left eyebrow. Instead of being black as was its mate, it was snow-white. I'd never seen anything like that before. I could only stare; but I guess its owner was used to it, for he seemed not to notice my rudeness.

"I'm Captain Wischerth," he said. "My mate tells me you came down here on your own and that there's no one with you? Is that right?"

I nodded.

He hesitated a few moments, as if debating what to say. "Look...I don't know how to say this, but honestly I don't know what to do about you. There'll be a ground sea out there today, son, and we'll get bounced around some. And, you know, you're only a little guy... Look—I mean maybe it won't be a good place for you to be...you know, no one to watch you and all that. And you might get seasick to boot. Why," he finally said in desperation when he'd noticed he was getting nowhere fast, "you can barely see over the rail. I don't know, son...maybe you better not go out today."

My heart dropped. Kerplunk! I'm sure distress was mirrored on my face, for Captain Wischerth glanced at his mate, gulped quite audibly, cleared his throat, and muttered in a low voice: "Jeeze."

There was nothing more for me to say. I gathered up my drop line and picked up the butter tub, ready to return it to the stack. I felt I was just about one step from tears. The skipper placed his hand on my shoulder. "Hold it a minute, son. Hey, Vito!" he called to the fisherman ten feet up the line. "The kid wants to go fishin' awful bad. You want to keep an eye on him when we get out there?"

"Sure. No trouble."

Captain Wischerth then turned back to me. "Okay, son. Just don't wander around. Stick with Vito. If it gets rough out there, I want you down below. Don't stay on deck. Understood?"

"Yes, sir!"

And that, so help me, is how I made my first party boat trip. By the skin of my teeth.

We fished the Ambrose Lightship Grounds that day and I caught a tubful of big pot-bellied ling. At day's end, Vito helped me in my attempts to clean my catch, telling me that if I did the chore now I'd have easier traveling on my way home. He also showed me a quick, easy way to gut and behead ling in two swift passes of the knife, a method I still use today. And surprise, surprise, I didn't get seasick as the skipper had expected.

On the run back to port, Captain Wischerth called me to the pilot house and asked how my day had gone. (He knew, of course, but wanted to hear it from me.) I was enthusiastic, but even more so when he returned my dollar fare and told me my first trip was on him. Next month, he said, he would begin whiting fishing and I should be on hand. And if I didn't have the dollar fare, not to worry bout it, just come aboard anyway.

And you wonder why I cherish the memory of those long-gone days!

And now something about the party boats of those times.

Except for those converted Sheepshead Bay yachts, such as the Sachem, Giralda, Sylph, and Au Revoir, which were coal-fired, most party boats of a half-century ago were diesel powered, and they were strictly slow boats to China. But then, as I said earlier, we didn't know any different and were therefore happy and content in our

ignorance.

And those party boat diesels were something from another world. I particularly remember the one on the old Rose R II, the party boat on which I eventually became a mate. This engine was a Fairbanks-Morse four-cylinder job. But what cylinders! Each easily six feet in height, and two-and-half feet in diameter. There was no electric starting for those monsters. It took compressed air—and plenty of it.

The Rose R II carried an engineer whose name was Matt Horlick, and a finer person or more excellent fisherman it would be difficult to find. As a kid, I followed him around like a puppy. One of the highlights of my fishing day was to watch that huge engine being started.

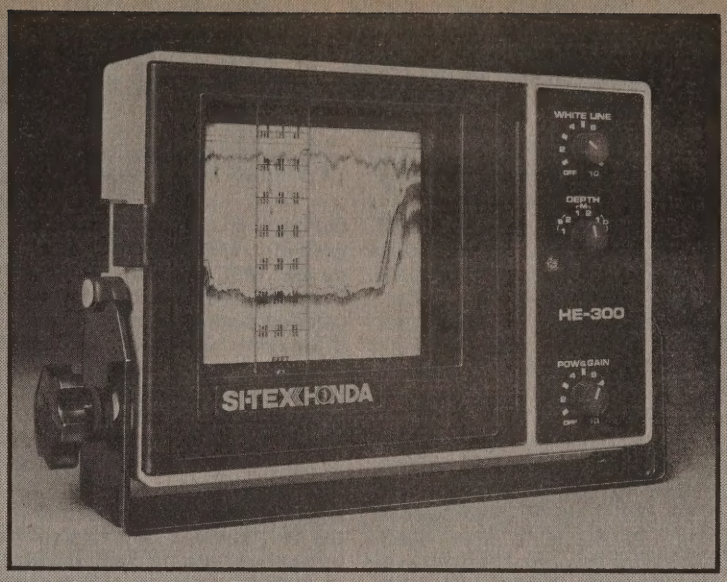
Fifteen minutes before leaving time, Matt would go down into the engine room and turn on the ignition. Five or ten minutes later, he would walk along the bank of cylinders, testing each head for warmth with his bare hand. When experience told him the correct temperature had been reached, he sat down on a small box, reached over and took hold of a lever shaped much like a table knife. This was pulled out and the compressed air released with such tremendous force it sounded as if a giant had bellowed "Chow!" That diesel never hesitated. It would catch immediately and never falter. This cycle had to be repeated each time a move was made from one fishing ground to another.

But that wasn't all.

There was no automatic oil pump for that diesel engine. Therefore, it was Matt's job to see that oil flowed properly. And to aid in this there was a built-in oblong brass box about 18" long and 8" wide, to which was fitted a glass cover for observation. Inside, bathed in oil, were numerous worm gears and one could watch the oil flow as it returned from the engine and circulated throughout the box. When the box was full, Matt turned a small hand crank situated at one end and this caused the gears to force the oil back into the engine. When under way, it was necessary to check the oil box approximately every 45 minutes. And Lord help the engineer who forgot to check!

Even the bilge pump was hand-operated. I ought to know, for many a time I pumped out the bilge of the old Rose R II. The lever for this was about four feet long and lay concealed behind a removable planking on the starboard side of the engine room bulkheading. Depending upon conditions, such as length of time between pumpings, weather, etc., it would take about 20 minutes to empty the bilge. Many a time my arms felt like dead weights, but it was a job and someone had to do it.

Oh, yes—it's a far cry from my early party boat fishing of a half-century ago. We fishermen of today have it much better as far as comfort and safety are concerned—but tell me: where are the fish?



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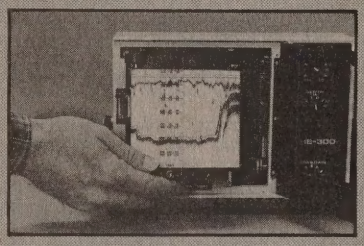

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SEARCH AND DESTROY

by William A. Muller

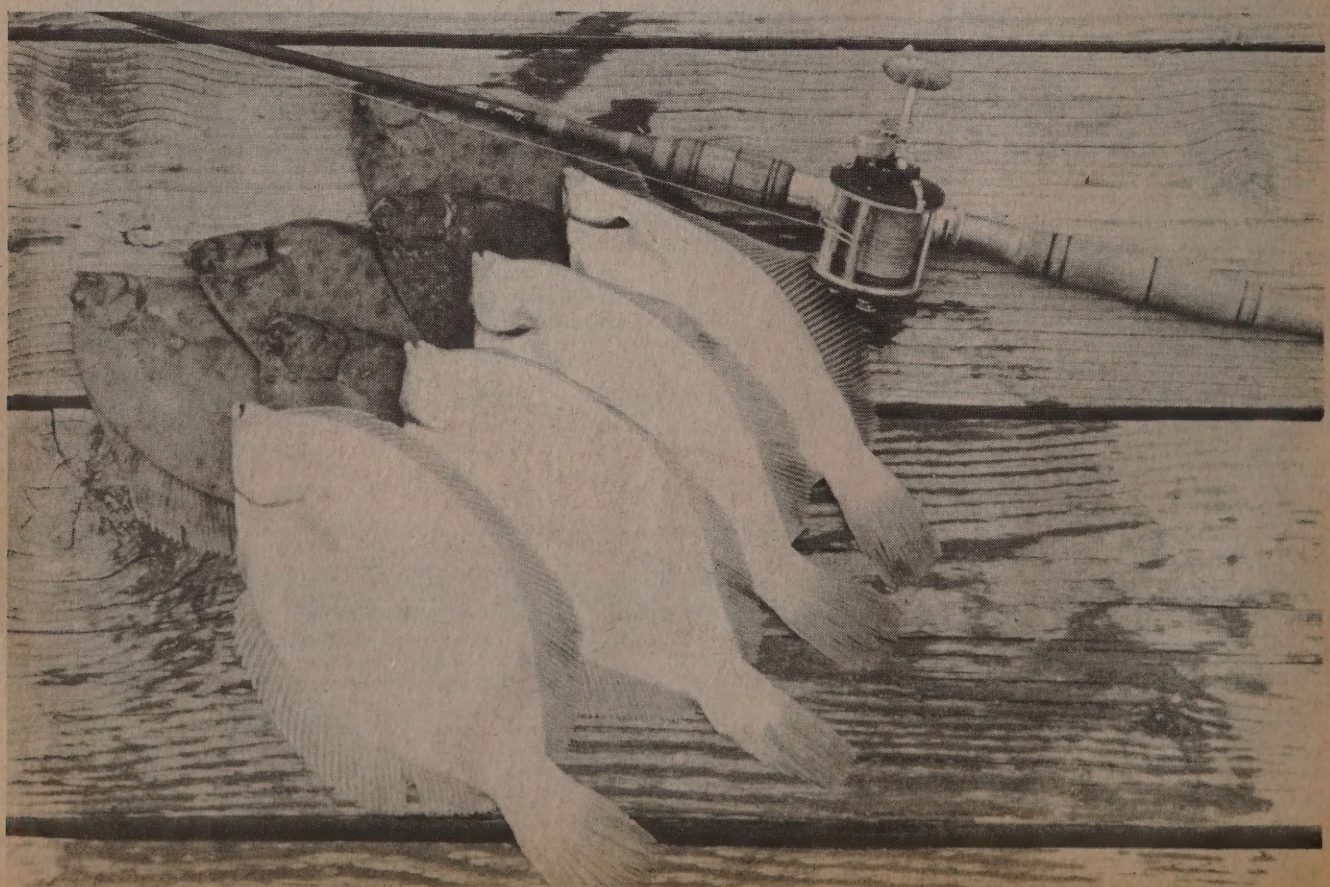
It is a sad but true fact that fall flounder fishing in many of Long Island's flounder waters just doesn't measure up to the spring run of flatfish. Now, that statement should not be misunderstood, because a run of fish that is diminished compared to the spring pace doesn't mean that the quality isn't there.

Allow me to qualify my opening statement. To begin with, it surprises me that some fishermen don't realize how terrific our Long Island flounder fishing is. There is a frequently expressed belief that one has to travel out of state for quality flounder fishing, and that just isn't so. Although a trip to Massachusetts can be an interesting and productive all-around experience, flounder of bragging size and abundance can be had right here "in River City." The season is a long one, too. We can get the ball rolling in late February in some shallow bays that are quickly warmed by the sun and there are a few spots where quality fish are still being hauled aboard in early August. In short, we can catch tasty flounder for the better part of six months during the early part of a year if we're willing to follow the fish east and into deeper water. Thus, it may be true that we can't expect good spring catches over a prolonged time period if we continue to fish the same spot, but the fish are available.

When then doesn't the fall fishing measure up to the spring? Well, in fact if numbers are what you look for in your flounder fishing, then often the quality does measure up. Frequently there are great runs of fish in the half to three-quarter pound range in many locations, but the spring-fall comparison really pales when you look at size. Although there is far too little data to make conclusive statements, it would appear that Long Island's estuaries represent spawning grounds for larger flounder in the spring and the fish feed for short periods of time to replenish reserves, but do not settle in. When the water warms up the fish move further east and into deeper water. Eventually, the bigger fish are all but unavailable to us. In the fall when the water begins to cool off, flounder are motivated to return to shallower water; however, larger fish are also motivated by the spawning urge and since spawning will not occur again until late winter and early spring, the larger fish stay in deeper water for the most part.

That is not to say that respectable fish aren't caught in the fall and even an occasional monster. Indeed, in some locales the fish may average 1½ lbs., but there will be few three pounders in the fall. Of course, the rule exists for the exception. We fished Lake Montauk four years ago in late September and found several holes loaded with fish between 1½ and 3½ lbs.! The reason for the exception turned out to be hordes of sand eels that attracted the flounder who, in turn, switched off clam spat, worms, and their usual forage in favor of the sand eels. Several years later a similar unexpected bonanza showed up in the Sound with loads of flounder in the 3 to 4 lb. range in late November. However, don't get your hopes up because in each case these were one-shot situations and have not repeated.

The best way to approach the fall



Snowshoes are not common, but 1½ lbers. like these are abundant.

flounder fishing is to expect 1½ lb. fish and then enjoy both the fishing and the eating! If you are willing to do this, then one area we can recommend is the North Fork of Long Island—both the Sound and bay.

In Peconic Bay we advise that you not expect either quality or quantity from the western Peconic. Boat liveries generally close early and few local fishermen work at it. However, in the waters around Shelter Island and east, flounder in the fall can be more than just worthwhile. The same spots produce now as they do in the spring: Cedar Beach, South Ferry, Mashomak Point, Long Beach.

In the Sound, from Truman's Beach east quite a different picture emerges. Spring flounder fishing here usually centers around Petty's Bight and some fishermen work this area in the fall as well. However, for size and quantity, it is often preferable to head a little east. Private skiffs can be launched from the Port of Egypt Auxiliary station directly on the Sound or from a marina ramp on the bay side. In both cases a fee is charged for launching. Skiffs can also be rented at the Port of Egypt station. Don't try the Sound launch when the winds are out of the north from any quarter and the folks at the station will be the first to suggest the difficulties, but on calm days or when the wind is south, the Sound launch becomes a convenient portal for your fishing. Head east from the station and try the areas around the two fish traps or between the traps. Move around. Some days the fish may be in shallow water close to the beach, while at other times you'll need to move off the beach a bit. Although sandy mud is, as always, the best bottom, don't be overly concerned if you end up on sand because there are times when the bigger flounder are working the edges of the sand patches for sand eels. If no fish are caught in a half-hour then move, but we suggest you give the sand a fair shot.

In this area some anglers like to combine blackfishing with flounder fishing. Using a flounder hook right above the sinker and blackfish hooks six inches higher they head for the rocky areas around Orient Light and Plum Island. Care is suggested because these waters can be treacherous especially in a small skiff on windy days. For those who try it with caution and common sense, a mix of huge flounder and blackfish can be the reward.

Techniques vary little from approaches that succeed in the spring although some flounder fishermen prefer worms in the fall over mussels and clams. I still prefer mussels over any flounder bait, but I lean a bit more towards clam in the fall. Chumming is still important and we always use two pots—one off each side of the boat. We feel that keeping the chum pots full and fresh is a key ingredient in successful flounder fishing regardless of the season. There is one exception. In the fall we sometimes drift a little more often than we are willing to do in the spring. We have observed that many spring flounder fishermen in east end waters drift in spring as well as fall. However, we have preferred to chum in a likely area and wait the fish out. In the fall, as we have already mentioned, the flounder (especially bigger ones) are busy chasing sand eels. With a light wind, a drift can be more productive than anchoring. In fact, we have observed a reluctance of the larger fish to take a stationary bait when they are on the move after sand eels.

If you are in a dilemma about whether to drift or anchor, try this compromise. Drift in a likely location. If you are taking good fish regularly, repeat your drifts over the same area. However, if the fishing is slow on the drift, anchor when you catch a fish and begin chumming. At times the chum is just what's needed to get the fish in an eating mood.

For tackle we prefer 5' and 6' light action baitcasting rods with reels like the Shakespeare President, Shimano 100 Bantam, Daiwa Magforce, and other similar reels. Ten pound test is more than adequate but tie fresh knots before each trip. Approach your tackle now as you would in the spring. Stay away from hardware because spreaders and the like only catch week, rocks, and shells. Use the tandem tied rig that has been repeatedly drawn and described in LIF articles. If you are in doubt, consult last spring's issues for flounder articles by Matt Ahern, Andy Regina, Gerald Hahn, and others. Details on how to tie the leaders and rig the terminal tackle are clearly explained and illustrated.

Although tackle, chum, and locations mean a lot now as they always do, we feel compelled to point out that techniques with rod and reel in hand are also very important. It is too easy to approach setting the hook with a hand that's too gentle and also to be overly quick and hard on the trigger. Oftentimes we've watched flounder fishermen lifting the rod tip so fast and so high that it resembles jigging for blues. We have also watched as flounder are allowed to swallow baits and hooks so deeply that they come up without a fight. We've watched a few sharpies and their approaches typify attention and style. They constantly watch and feel the rod and reel, and they periodically make slow easy lifts of about a foot. The lift is very deliberate and these experts are testing for the weight of a flounder that may have inhaled a bait, but not really taken it or moved away with it. It is typical of flounder to take a bait in their mouths and simply sit on the bottom—sometimes for many minutes. The rod tip does not twitch and the line does not move. If the rod is unattended the fish may eventually spit the bait out and swim away. "Shy" fish can be motivated to take the bait by gently lifting. If weight is felt, the rig is dropped slowly back to the bottom. The flounder fisherman waits ten seconds or so and then lifts gently again. The process is repeated until a tug is felt on the lift. At this point the wrist comes into action. The wrist should be flicked upward decisively. It is my feeling, after using this approach myself for many years, that the repeated gentle lifting stimulates the fish to take the bait before it gets away.

In summary, fall east end flounder fishing won't offer as many monster flatfish as we come to expect in April and May, but excellent quantities of fish in the 1½ lb. class can be expected. Fish as you would in the spring, but work many areas, watch the weather, and enjoy the fillets.

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DON'T LEAVE HOME WITHOUT THEM!

by Fred Golofaro

Droppers have made their mark on the surf fishing scene and those casters who employ them are reaping the rewards.

Despite all of the articles written about droppers in recent years and heaps of evidence lending overwhelming support to their effectiveness, I am still amazed at the number of surfmen who have failed to include these deadly sand eel imitations in their arsenal. Time after time, these unpretentious little feather, and more recently rubber creations, have proven their worth on beaches and rock piles along the Jersey shore, around Long Island's perimeter, and up through the classic surf of New England where names like Nauset Beach, Race Point, Great Point, and Squibnocket raise the pulse of die-hard casters who know no bounds.

I can recount tale after tale when a dropper, or teaser if you prefer, made me look good on the beach, to the consternation of dropper-less casters around me. So convinced am I of the edge they lend, that I very rarely find myself fishing without one. The only times they do come off in fact, are when overly aggressive blues begin to put a dent in my stock or when that little bit of extra distance is needed to reach the fish. The added wind resistance does take a little something off of your cast but if you are more concerned with catching fish rather than impressing the guy next to you with how far you can cast, then this factor is of little importance except under the rarest of circumstances.

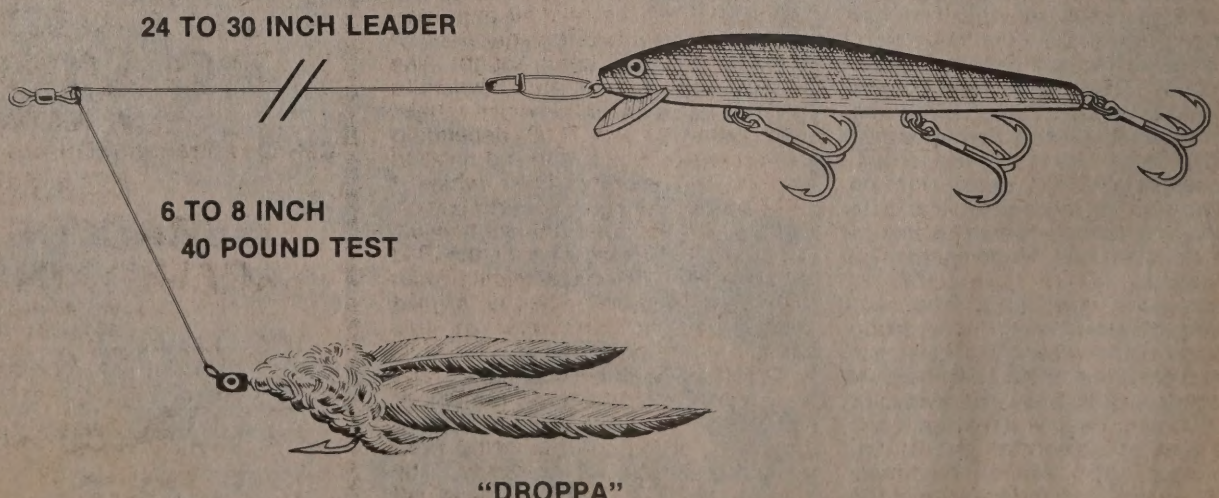
The advantages in using droppers are many and the reasons for their success have fueled many a stove top fire.

First of all, no other artificial is as good a match for a sand eel and since these baitfish have dominated our waters for a number of years now, the dropper becomes a logical choice if you put any credence in "matching the hatch."

While you will have some days or nights when all or a majority of your fish will be taken on the dropper, there will be times when you will take more or all of your fish on the main lure. It has been my experience that the use of a dropper increases the attractiveness of whatever else you are fishing. Many times, I've taken fish with regularity on the same plug or tin that fishless casters around me were using and I have no alternative but to believe that it was the added appeal created by the dropper. Whether it acts as a tease or attention getter, or it simply brings out the aggressiveness in game fish which view the scene as a larger baitfish chasing smaller bait, the combo works. If I had to put my money on one or the other, I'd have to opt for the latter.

Another advantage in using droppers is that it permits you to cover all the bases. For example, you might want to fish a big skin plug in hopes of nailing a trophy cow bass but a dropper fished ahead of the plug still gives you a shot at smaller fish which might be less prone to take the larger

DROPPER RIG



artificial. When fishing an area where weakfish are mixed with bass or blues, you can often take weaks on a dropper while working a popping plug, which the yellowfins are not too keen on, for bass or blues.

While I hesitate to label it an advantage, some might view it that way. I'm referring to the potential of taking two fish at a time which is a common, if not frequent occurrence when using a dropper. If big blues or bass are involved then this might be one of those times when the teaser comes off.

Prior to this, I mentioned that small fish might be more prone to taking the teaser rather than a big plug. Don't be misled into thinking that large fish do not find these creations appealing. No better evidence of this can be found than in Tony Stetzko's massive 73 lb. cow taken late last fall (Nov. 3) on Cape Cod. The largest striper ever taken from the surf and the second largest ever taken on rod and reel at the time was duped by a black feather dropper.

One misconception, even by those already using droppers, is that they are effective only when fished ahead of a swimming plug. Nothing could be further from the truth as I have had equally good success fishing them ahead of tins, popping plugs and unweighted live eels.

Rigging with droppers is a simple matter although some surfmen prefer minor variations to the standard rigging procedure. Beginning with a 24''-30'' leader between your lure and running line and connected by a good quality, black swivel, the dropper is connected to the same eye of the swivel as your leader. Preferences in length and strength vary, but anywhere from four to ten inches is preferred by most surfmen and I have found six to eight inches to be about right for most situations. One exception is when working a popping plug, particularly a pencil popper. Then, I prefer the longer end of the scale which allows the teaser to spend more time in the water.

While most surf fishermen use 40 or 50 lb. leader material when rigging droppers, there are times when I drop down to 30 lb. test if conditions are such that the fish may shy away from the heavier leaders. Calm nights in protected bays or rivers, particularly when weaks or bass are the quarry are suited to the lighter leaders and many sections of Long Island Sound fall into this category as well.

Most casters prefer nylon leader material over regular mono due to its greater stiffness which helps hold the dropper closer to the perpendicular of your line and leader. Heavier mono, especially in the shorter lengths, will work fine but I would recommend going to the stiffer leader material when dropping down to 30 lb. test as 30 lb. mono will twist and wrap its way into an annoying mess.

Some casters eliminate the short length of leader to the dropper by permitting an extra length of their main leader to trail from the knot connecting the leader to the swivel. The dropper is then tied to this trailing piece of leader.

Spare droppers should be pre-rigged with about a foot of leader material to facilitate replacing or changing the one you are using. Some casters carry this a step further and rig each dropper to a pre-made leader. This might be okay when rigging from scratch at the start of a trip, but is often unnecessary in the course of a night's fishing when you will more than likely be changing or replacing only the dropper. Store extras in your surf bag in such a way that they retain their natural shape whether they be made of rubber or feathers. Take special care not to break feathers as a little extra length often produces better than a short, stubby teaser. Also, all talk here has been geared to feathers rather than bucktails because they are better suited for use as droppers.

While you can tie your own feathers, there is a high quality, relatively inexpensive dropper available which hardly makes tying your own worth the time or the effort. Known as "**Droppas**," they are sold through the mail by **Angling Aids**. Orders should be addressed to P.O. Box 280, Old Saybrook, Ct. 06475. "Droppas" are available in 4/0, 5/0 or 6/0 sizes with the 5/0 being my all-around favorite. Available in white, blue, yellow, green, green-white, brown, black or grey, I have always been satisfied with white and black. However, if you asked a half dozen casters which colors they prefer you would probably end up with six different answers. Cost of ten 5/0 size Droppas is $12.95 and a complete catalog is available from the above address.

The other dominant dropper on the market is a rubber-bodied model with a swimming tail. Manufactured by **Blue Fox** and known as the **Red Gill**, they are available in three sizes but the medium (4'') size is far and away the surfmen's favorite regardless of the size of the fish being sought. The only drawbacks to this dynamite teaser may be the price, which ranges between $1.50 and $2.00, depending on where you buy it and the need to replace the existing hook which I have found lacking in holding power, with a 4/0 or 5/0 O'Shaughnessy. Also, the life expectancy of the Red Gill is greatly diminished when bluefish are around. Nonetheless, a good number of surfmen swear by this version of the dropper.

Droppers have been on the scene longer than most of us can remember and they have enjoyed periods of popularity along with suffering from extended periods of obscurity. The current craze, fueled by a sand eel boom in the Northeast, has been under way for several years now and shows no sign of letting up. If you're not already on the bandwagon, there is still plenty of time this fall to become a believer!

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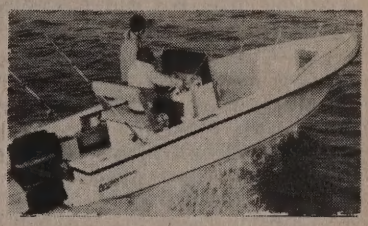

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TRACKING TAUTOG

by Gerald Hahn

Both shores of Long Island provide beach bound anglers with some fine tautog action.

A person I met one summer, who worked in a brewery, had the belly of a blackfish, and he would take bets in a local bar that his great stomach wouldn't yield to the strongest blow. That summer I remember seeing a handful of broken wrists. Likewise, every fall I find a handful of broken rigs meant for blackfish.

Appearances are deceptive, then, when you consider the proportions of a blackfish, for supporting that girth is a tough rib cage and a powerful back. Another deception is the blackfish's small mouth, which conceals a large set of teeth, which in turn, conceal yet another set of teeth. Though the teeth in front look almost human, the ones in back resemble a pair of mushrooms standing face-to-face. Only these mushrooms are harder than ordinary mushrooms. In fact, they're harder than the brewery worker's belly. Biologists call them **pharygneal teeth**; anglers prefer the more descriptive **crushers**. Either way, they can reduce such resiliant materials as mussel shells, barnacles and crab carapaces to the consistency of coarse sand. Covering this short stout fish with the great head and the thick tail is a tough hide, as slimy as an eel's. In short, the blackfish, though a modern member of the wrasse family, looks more like a fossil from the Cambrian Age.

Blackfish are also odd for not migrating the way most bottom fish in the temperate zone do. Instead they spend their winters in moderation off local waters. Although traditionally the fish ranged from South Carolina to Maine, few are taken north of Cape Cod, which is odd, since the coast becomes increasingly rocky as you head north, and blackfish are fond of this kind of terrain. Then again, the water becomes increasingly cold up north, and the fish function best in temperatures of about the mid-50s to low-60s. In Long Island, these water temperatures occur in the spring and fall, when blackfish are aroused from their lethargy and head inshore to feed. Even then, however, the fish are home-bodies who do not range very far.

In New England, the blackfish is called by the Narragansett Indian name, **tautog**; in Virginia he's called a **moll** or a **Will-George**; in southern New Jersey he's a **whitechin.** Whatever you call him, the fish comes in two sizes: regular and bulldog. Regulars weigh one to four pounds and bulldogs weigh 5 to 10 pounds or more. A specimen weighing 22½ lbs. was reported in 1876.

Knowing the blackfish's peculiar anatomy and behavior enables the shore-bound angler to track him down and to properly select tackle, rigs and baits. On the south shore, for instance, the inlets provide excellent rocky formations adjacent to jetties. On the north shore, the angler will have little trouble locating boulders and mussel beds. Since all of these areas are characterized by rough terrain, a strong nine foot surf rod or an eight foot jetty stick and an intermediate surf spinning reel filled with 20 lb. test should be considered. Lighter equipment may be suited to other species, but not to blackfish.

A blackfish rig is fashioned with a 12 inch leader of 30 or 40 lb. test, which is connected to the fishing line with a barrel swivel and two improved clinch knots. The leader serves both to strengthen the rig and to facilitate breaking it when a snag occurs. An end loop below secures a bank sinker, which may be as light as two ounces on the north shore or five ounces on the south shore. Size 4 to 6 Virginia hooks, commonly called "blackfish hooks," on 12 inch leaders of 40 lb. test, are the most effective for this species. The Virginia is a strong blued hook; it has a hollow, offset point and a short bite, designed specifically for the tautog's small mouth and for rigging his favorite prey—crabs. The rig may be fashioned with two hooks in tandem, one snell tied to the middle of the other, or with a single hook. A dropper loop three to six inches above the sinker secures either arrangement of hooks. A third arrangement sometimes is employed, particularly when the water is full of weeds or when other species, such as porgies or flounder, are mixed in. Here, the single hook is connected as before, and a second hook is added about 13 inches above, on a second dropper. For this rig, a two foot leader is required, and a three-way swivel may substitute for the dropper, the top hook connecting to the third eye of the swivel. Generally, I use two-hook rigs on the north shore and single hook rigs on the south shore.

As mentioned, the best baits for blackfish are crabs: fiddlers, green crabs, and hermit crabs. Fiddlers are the easiest to rig, since they are fished live and require no preparation. One or two of these frisky little crabs is impaled on a hook through the rear of the carapace. Some anglers first remove the large "fiddler" claw of the male and insert the hook into the large claw socket and out the rear. Green crabs are larger than fiddlers, and therefore, are cut in half or quartered. The green shell, as well as the yellowish shell on the belly side, are then removed, as are all the claws and legs, and what remains is a glistening chunk of white crab meat. The hook is pushed through one claw socket and out another, or is buried in the gristle, using the barb as a wedge and exposing the point ever so slightly. Some anglers simply cut the crab in sections and fish it with the shell and claws intact. Small green crabs may be impaled like fiddlers and fished live. As far as I know, hermit crabs are only available on the north fork's east end, which is most unfortunate, since blackfish relish them, perhaps most of all, for the hermit crab has a soft, spongy tail (actually, its abdomen) that is highly vulnerable. Thus, the crab must first be evicted from the home it has borrowed, usually a whelk shell, by pounding it carefully. Then the crab's forepart is cut, including the large claws, and the hook is inserted through the remaining hard shell and into the soft tail. This way, the hook point is in the softest part of the crab. In the spring, blackfish are also attracted to worms and clams, and sometimes they are more effective than crabs. But in the fall, crab baits attract the largest blackfish.

South shore and north shore blackfish, though basically the same, require different fishing methods. Since blackfish seem to have no fear of rough currents, I always head for the ocean entrance of a south shore jetty to track them down. Catching a blackfish from the end of a jetty requires no remarkable casting skill. In fact, if your cast is as good as a third-rate flycaster's, it's perfect for blackfishing, since the fish stay close to the rocks. The skill is in the reflexes, for a blackfish signals his interest with two or three quick jabs, like a bergall or a porgy, and follows with a sharp downward jolt. If you react too soon, he dodges the hook; if you hit him too late, you run into a brick wall, or rather into those impenetrable crushers in back of his mouth. Either way, you lose the battle, but are grateful to have saved the rig. Should you manage to perfect

your timing and hook him solidly, you must instantly raise the rod, and reel in fast; otherwise you will lose both fish and rig.

Even after catching a blackfish from a south shore jetty, he often is lost. I have seen buckets turn over half an hour after the fish was caught, and inevitably the fish slides into an unreachable crevice between the rocks. A wet sack or a fish stringer is more secure.

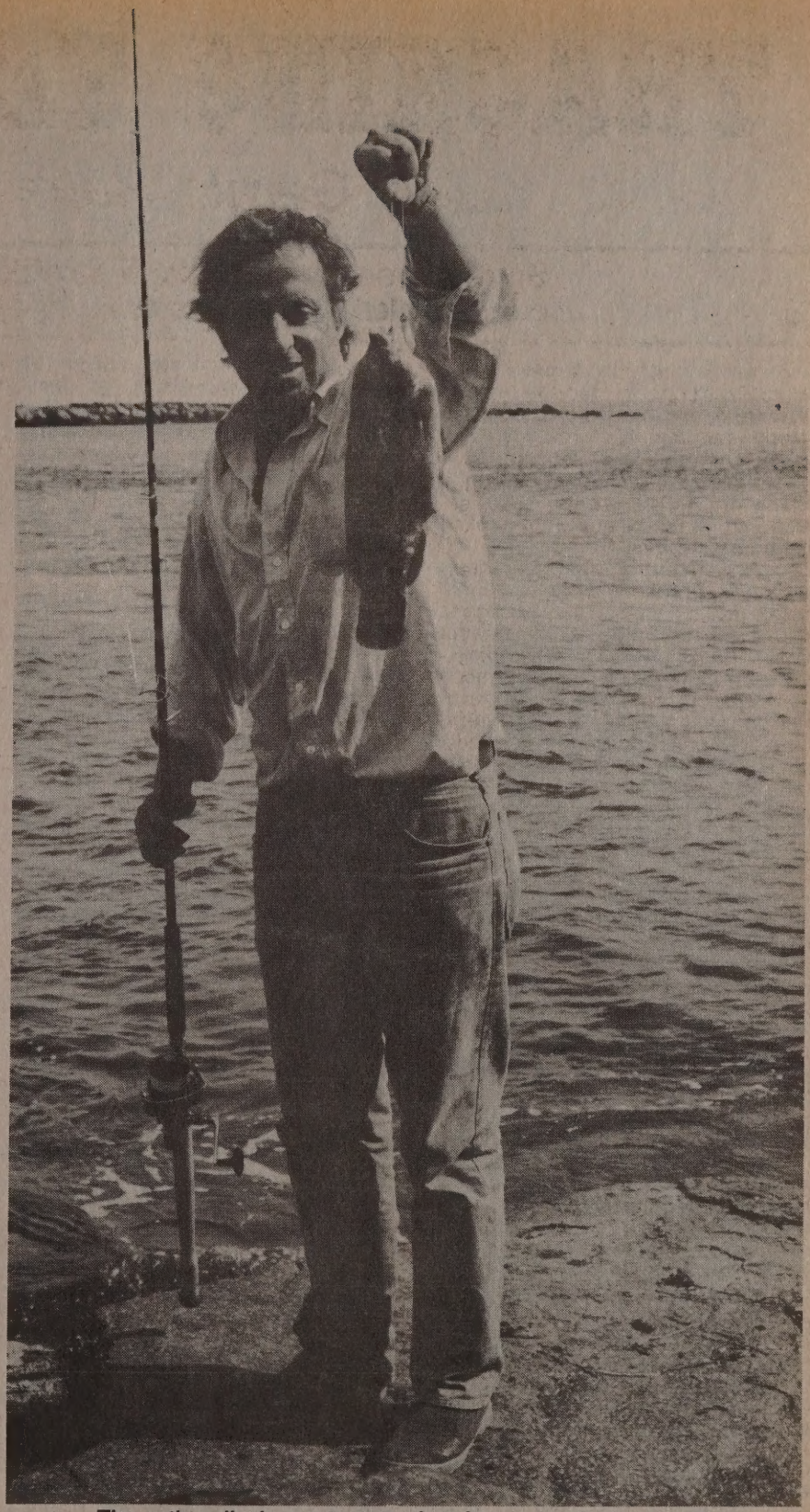
On the north shore, you have more room to play the fish, as well as to store him. However, finding a blackfish is harder; he's not behind every boulder or in every mussel bed, and sometimes he's in water so deep, you need a tournament caster's arm to reach him. Give a north shore blackfish about 20 minutes in each spot and then move on. One way to catch him here is with a dead stick, that is, by casting and letting the rig settle to the bottom, tightening the slack—and waiting. Another effective method is to use a slow retrieve with long pauses; you cover more terrain, for one, and despite arguments to the contrary, blackfish will hit a slow moving bait. I've caught many this way, albeit regulars, from a drifting boat. On the north shore, just as on the south shore, quick reflexes and rods pointing skyward are required for doing battle with this lumbering fish. The blackfish makes no spectacular leaps or runs; he simply dives to his rocky abode and hangs your rig on one of his jagged walls.

Although blackfish are found all along Long Island Sound, two of my favorite spots are at Wildwood State Park and Orient Point. Both places are heavily endowed with submerged rocks, and Wildwood, moreover, boasts rich mussel beds. At Orient, I fish along the rocks, from east of the Port of Egypt Fishing Station to the cove near the fish traps. At Wildwood, I also head east for the boulders and mussel beds. One sector, about a half mile way, has an agglomeration of rocks so dense, you need 20 rigs to fish there. The reward, however, is sometimes an 8 lb. bulldog.

On the south shore, all the major inlets, such as Jones, Fire Island, Moriches and Shinnecock, have concentrations of blackfish. The pilings off Rockaway and the south-side bridges are also worth checking. Most of my blackfishing on the south shore is performed either off Shinnecock's west jetty or Moriches' east jetty, both more or less near the ocean entrances. My feeling, however, is that Moriches' west jetty may be better than its east jetty, because the channel is closer here, and boat fishermen seem to favor this side for blackfish. If you have a beach vehicle, head to the west jetty, about seven miles east of the Smith Point Bridge.

October is generally the best month to try for bulldog blackfish, although I have also caught blackfish as early as mid-August and as late as mid-November, on both shores. In the spring, when smaller fish seem to predominate, try fishing in May. Curiously, the south shore seems to harbor greater numbers of regular-sized blackfish and the north shore fewer, though greater, bulldogs. Tidal changes are best, anywhere.

I don't know why trying to convince a sportsman to try for blackfish is like telling a trout fisherman to try for carp. Perhaps it's because the unglamorous blackfish shows up when game fish are on sportsmen's minds. Still, it's absurd watching a sportsman trying to cast over 400 feet to a 2 lb. blue when a 5 lb. blackfish is lurking a few feet beyond his rod tip. Maybe he considers blackfishing beneath him. Not I; blackfishing is bottom fishing of the highest order.



The author displays a tautog taken from a south shore inlet.

MINI - METHODS FOR FALL BASS

Part One—*by Angelo Peluso*

It is accepted by most bass fishing aficionados that many situations require an angler to muscle large-mouth bass out of the weeds or up from the depths. The ability to accomplish this is contingent principally upon the type of tackle used: rods with built-in authority, high test lines and heavy duty reels. Though it is realized that lunker gear is a necessary evil, I often enjoy going "light" and being able to fully appreciate the fighting qualities that both the large-mouth and smallmouth are noted for. Imagine for a moment the satisfaction of boating a lunker bass while utilizing four pound test line matched to a midget rod and reel. That's the stuff that angling dreams are made of. Some of my most memorable catches were made with ultra-light equipment, during the fall when aquatic vegegation begins to die off.

Tiny rods and reels have their limitations, and the balance sheet shows many positive and negative aspects. But the important point to note is that aside from being merely enjoyable to use, this equipment can, at times, be a bass fishing necessity. The fact of the matter is that under various conditions of water clarity and light penetration, ultra-light tackle and associated techniques are needed if fish are to be caught.

One incident that immediately comes to mind occurred during a fall bass outing to a Long Island lake that I fish quite regularly. The water temperature had fallen substantially, but was still within the lower portion of the bass comfort zone. Taking this factor into consideration, I decided to develop a strategy of spot casting the shore line. Hoping to pick up stragglers making a last attempt to store up food for the winter, I proceeded to work over some of the shore line stretches that had produced for me in the past. Using plugs, plastic worms and spinner baits, I covered every piece of likely looking bass water. Much to my dismay, no takers.

It was at this point that I began to try and analyze the situation, especially those factors that could be causing the bass to refuse my offerings: lure selection, lure color, retrieve, depth control, speed control, water temperature, water clarity. Water clarity! That's it, or at least I was hoping so.

I reasoned that the cooler weather had reduced the growth rate of aquatic vegetation, thereby creating a condition of clearer water, and where there's clear water there will most certainly be very wary bass. I further reasoned that the one possible way to overcome the effects of higher visibility (on the part of the fish, that is) would be to go to a lighter line. So down went the spinning rig with the 10 pound test and up came the ultra light with the four pound line. Now to test the theory.

I began casting over the same water that had appeared barren just thirty minutes before. My retrieve, lure selection and basic strategy remained the same. After no more than a dozen casts with a shallow running plug, I took my first bass of the day—a nice two pounder. Had I found the answer? Well, one fish doesn't indicate the discovery of a true pattern. Too many variables affect this game called "bassin'." I would need to know more. So on went the diligent and methodical probing.

As the electric motor quietly brought me into casting position, I placed the featherweight plug at the edge of some standing weeds. After allowing it to rest motionless for what appeared to be an eternal thirty seconds, I gave it a slight twitch. Much to my satisfaction the plug was immediately attacked. As I set the hook it became obvious that this adversary was no two pounder. I had my hands full trying to prevent him from reaching the dense portion of the weed bed. But luck, in conjunction with a quick and decisive strike, had the fish coming in my direction.

Its underwater, bulldog type battle truly tested the guts of my midget rod and reel. All that kept going through my head was the thought that this was most assuredly one heck of a place to hook a big bass on ultra-light tackle. On several occasions I sincerely felt that all was lost. But someone upstairs was evidently on my side this day for the fish eventually tired, enabling me to cautiously guide it into the mouth of my waiting net. That ole bruiser registered 5 lbs. 4 oz. on my pocket scale. Not too bad for ultra-light action.

Believe you me, that brief tussle (though it seemed endless) has been permanently etched in my memory. I relive the event over and over again each time that I look at the tiny wand that subdued it.

The remainder of that day proved to be an even more lucrative period, for I was able to take six additional bass, all upwards of two pounds. Light tackle saved the day; just one incident of many that have made me a believer in the merits of UL bass fishing.

Though there exists various types of UL tackle within all of the major equipment categories, reference to ultra-light in this article will be made exclusively to tackle of the spinning variety where the combined weight of the rod and reel is approximately nine ounces—two ounces of rod and seven ounces of reel. The reason for this choice is that spinning gear has the potential for being a more versatile angling method, especially when there is a need to make an accurate presentation of extremely light lures. Now that we know the classification of equipment we are dealing with, let's examine the component parts.

First of all, a look at the rod. A number of positive experiences over the past several years have made me a believer in the qualities of a 5½ footer as opposed to something shorter or longer. The primary reason being that when we consider the range of UL spinning rods to be four to six feet, the 5½ foot variety offers the best possible leverage with an acceptable parabolic action (the degree to which a rod is "whippy"). It is essential for an UL rod to have sufficient leverage potential since you will need all the help you can get when attempting to set the hook in the tough mouth of a bass. You must also keep in mind the fact that there will be substantial line stretch since the line strength will be low. This, combined with the flex of the rod, is something that all UL fishermen should be keenly aware of at all times. A rod of this nature should be capable of efficiently handling lures in the 1/16 to 1/4 ounce range. Many may laugh at the angler who opts to use a Ul rod, but it is a proven fact that a two ounce mini-stick, in capable hands, is a very deadly fishing tool.

The next component worthy of mention is the line. It is vital for the line strength to be matched as perfectly as possible to the rod action. When using a rod of the type previously mentioned, I prefer four pound test line. To some, bass fishing with this gossamer line might indicate some sort of mental deficiency on the part of the user, but the avid UL angler knows and appreciates its unique capabilities. Utilized in situations where its qualities can work for the fisherman, the light line exhibits considerable durability. It is important to remember that circumstance will determine whether or not line of this nature is practical.

New innovations in line manufacturing have created many small diameter lines that are able to retain the tested ratings of their larger diameter counterparts. An advantage of the small diameter is that it enables the caster to gain greater casting distance and precision, while at the same time reducing the line visibility in water. One is also able to increase the capacity of reel spools since more

of the small diameter line can fit onto any given spool. These characteristics are very significant ones and have caused me to lean in the direction of the small diameter line when a choice is to be made for the purposes of ultra-light fishing. But this line is not without flaws. I have found that there is one aspect that users of it should be made aware of, especially if they intend to fish for bass.

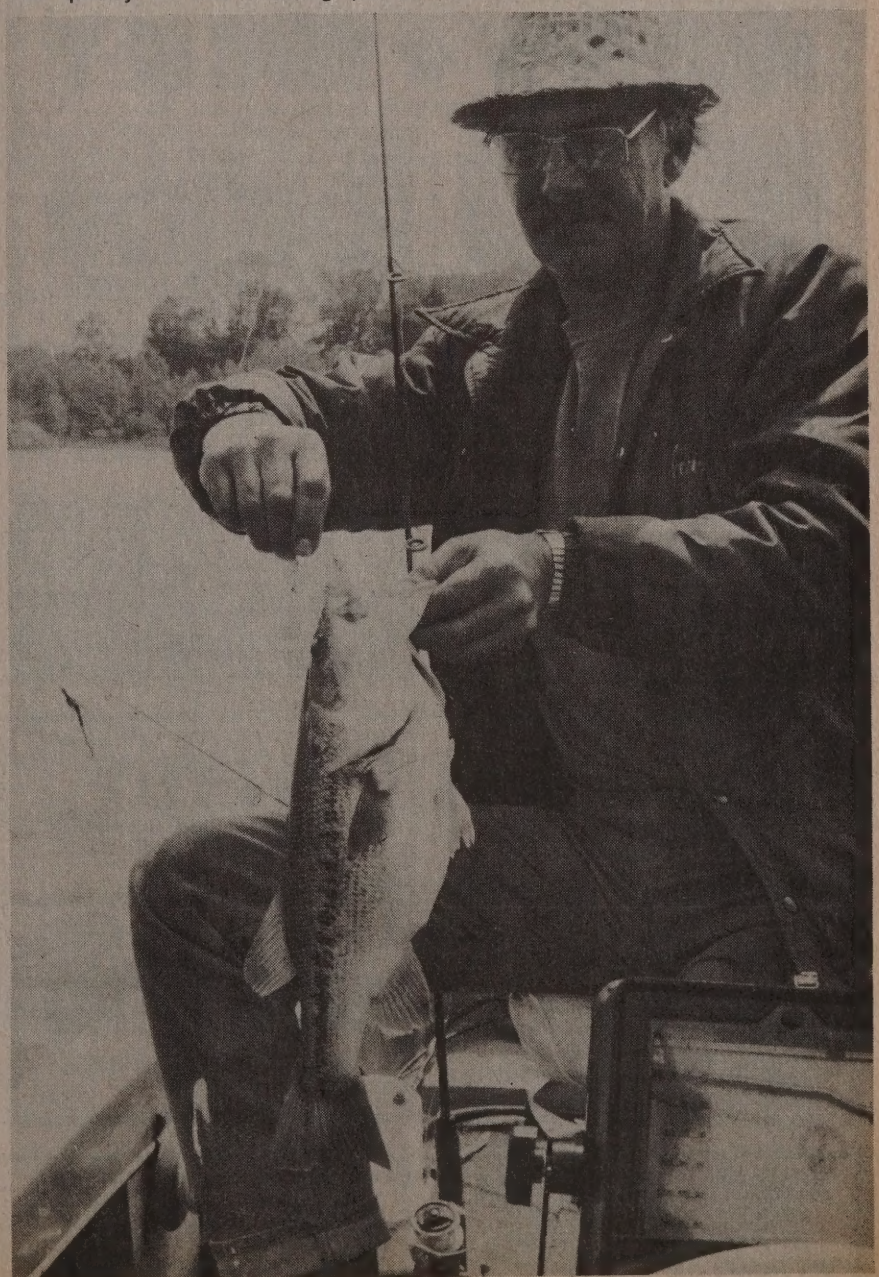
It seems as if the attempt to achieve greater casting efficiency by decreasing the line diameter has caused this type of line to lose some of its abrasion resisting qualities. There have been a number of instances, encountered while fishing the fringe of a lily pad patch or dense weed bed, where I noticed significant fraying on approximately the first 10 feet of the small diameter monofilament. It was determined, after careful examination, that this damage was caused by line contact with, and friction against, the pad and weed stems. I should note that the occurrence of fraying with the four pound, small diameter line was much more frequent than with the conventional four pound diameter. If after weighing the advantages and disadvantages you decide to stick with the smaller line, I suggest that a precise inspection of the first few feet of line be made after each series of casts. If there is so much as a nick present, cut the line and retie the lure. The extra effort will be well worth it once that first big one latches on. Keep in mind that should you notice excessive line fray with no apparent obstacles causing it, make certain to inspect your equipment carefully. A worn rod guide is usually the number one culprit, but a worn or rusted line guide on the bail of a spinning reel runs a close second. Any damaged part should be repaired as soon as possible. Remember, we are limiting ourselves by using UL equipment, so it's very important for that gear to be in tip-top shape.

Now to the business end of the line: the lures. My number one preference for UL fishing is the plastic worm in the six inch size. When rigging the worm for this type of fishing it has been proven to be advantageous to use either a size 1 or 1/0 weedless hook tied directly to the line by means of an improved clinch knot. The hook is inserted into the head of the worm and drawn out approximately one inch down the underside of the body, with the barb and weed guard fully exposed. Experience has established that rigging in this fashion is more practical when fishing UL than the Texas style rig, where the hook is actually embedded into the worm body. The reason for this preference is attributable to the limber qualities of the UL rod. When setting the hook with a Texas rig you must first be able to draw the hook point through the worm body before setting into the mouth of the bass. Since this is a fairly difficult thing to accomplish with a stout rod, the problem is compounded with the use of an ultra-light. The exposed hook point on the "weedless" alleviates much of this problem since it eliminates the necessity to penetrate the body bulk of the plastic worm.

Also on my list of personal favorites are the minnow-like balsa and plastic plugs. These lures are fairly light in weight, can be handled effectively with UL equipment and pack one heck of a wallop. This lure group can be obtained in either shallow running or sinking models, and in one piece or jointed design. The most outstanding feature of these plugs is their phenomenal hooking ability. I am convinced that the trebles used in their construction have such hooking potential, that any bass passing within the vicinity of the plug is as good as hooked. With use though, the hooks need care and honing if they are to retain their lethal sharpness. The quality of this hooking power compensates, to a reasonable degree, for the effects of the UL rod. The time-tested fish-catching qualities of the minnow imitations make them an ideal choice for tiny tackle fishing.

Another favored category of lures is that of the spinner baits, both the single and double blade varieties. I have found that lures of this kind, in weights up to 1/8 ounce match up best with the UL gear. Some of the small single blade spinners have produced extremely well under conditions of high water clarity, where the bass tend to spook rather easily. The light line plus the gentle presentation of the small lure seem to place at ease otherwise cautious bass.

Up to this point I have been principally concerned with familiarizing the reader with the basic ultra light equipment. Next week we will take a look at some of the associated methods and techniques.



Ultra-light spinning tackle comes into its own during the fall months when weed growth is greatly diminished.

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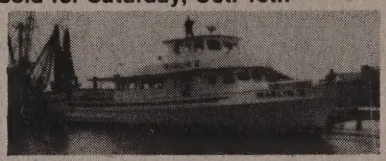

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East End Report

by Stu Miller

MONTAUK

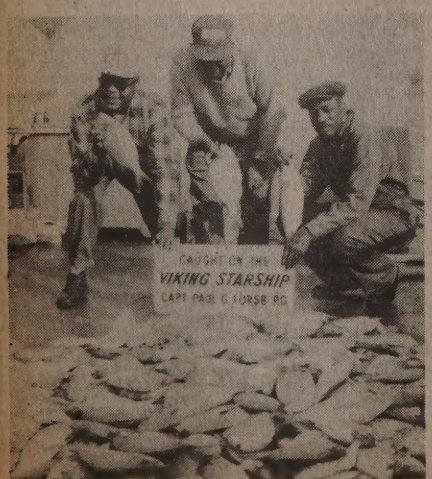
Aboard the charter boat **Free Spirit** we get word that Mike Godt along with Hal and Bud and Dennis Rowan fishing at the Butterfish Hole released one blue shark and landed a 100 lb. class bluefin tuna.

From Capt. Mike of the charter boat **Montauk** comes the word that some bass have shown at the Point along with some big weakfish but nothing to write home about yet. The Cartwright bluefishing is better than ever with the choppers even meaner and bigger than last week. The skipper is now also booking his fall blackfish trips.

Aboard Capt. Richie Rade's **Marlin Fleet** his bluefishing trips at Cartwright have been producing excellent quantities of fish in the 15-18 lb. range on herring and on diamonds also, daytime, despite winds. Porgy fishing has also shown excellent results through Friday, with catches averaging 80 porgies a man working Midway and Great Eastern. Catches were knocked down on the weekend due to the strong winds.

Fishing aboard the charter boat **Nostalgia II**, Sandro Chia and friends fishing Cartwright took 40 blues in the 10-15 lb. range on herring.

Capt. Mike Potts of the **Blue Fin I and IV** called to tell us that Tuesday's trip for the Snyder group totaled 1 striper weighing 12 lbs. taken on a diamond jig, 60 small blues taken at the Point on umbrellas and roughly 350 lbs. of porgies caught in the Midway area. Wednesday's morning trip for the Bellush group totalled a 10 lb. striper and 80 small blues umbrellaed



George Langhern, James Pollen and James Cook with a large haul of porgies caught on the "Viking Starship" at Montauk.

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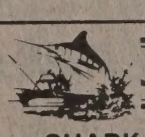

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Daiwa Sales Rep, Lou Rosado, and the 220 lb. mako he boated aboard the Malkessa at Montauk. The largest of three makos taken during the day, it was weighed at Star Island Yacht Club.

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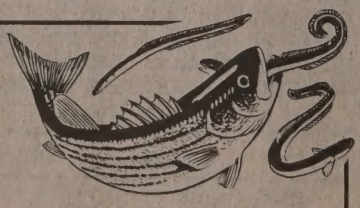

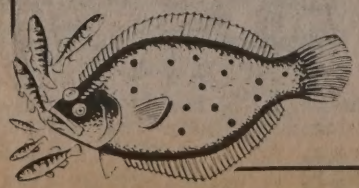

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around the Point. They also loaded up with roughly 150 lbs. of porgies from 1-2 lbs. Wednesday trips for the Krause party decked 96 mixed size blues taken at Shagwong and the Sub Buoy. Thursday's trip for the Stebbins/Berse group, Tarrytown, NY on an all day trip scored with 3 weaks, 10-12 lbs. and 25 small blues trolled at the Point. They then proceeded to Cartwright for 80 big blues from 12-15 lbs. along with a 12 lb. cod. On the way back they baited 75 lbs. of porgies from 1-2 lbs. Friday morning's trip for the Runberg group totalled 60 big Cartwright blues on bait, 12-15 lbs. with an 18 lber. taking the pool. The afternoon trip was for striped bass only for the Hearty group. No bass were found but they filled the box with 50 small blues umbrellaed around the Point. For the Pepas group Sun., 100 small blues were taken in the calmer waters on the south side. Generally the porgy fishing has been excellent, fish mostly 1-2 lbs. with anything smaller being released. Capt. John Potts on the **Blue Fin I** has been concentrating his charters on smaller blues at the Point, medium blues and green bonito at Southwest Ledge and jumbos at Cartwright.

Charter boat **Ebb Tide** reports that their bluefishing trips to Cartwright continue to be excellent, fish going to 20 lbs., but the bass fishing still leaves a great deal to be desired.

We hear from Capt. Phil Lewis of th charter boat **Adios** that his bluefish trips remain great at Cartwright with bass action still slow. Weather conditions Saturday and Sunday hindered bassing at the Point, but after the northeaster, perhaps things will improve.

The report out of **Gone Fishing Marina** is that Friday Russ Knorr,

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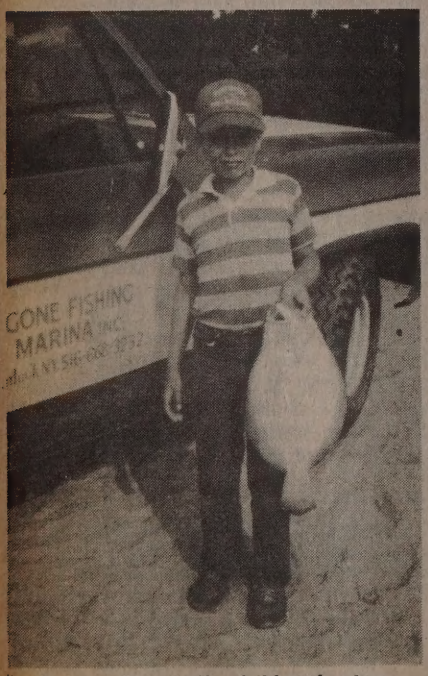


Bobby Stremeli of Huntington shows the 6 lb. fluke he caught in Montauk's North Rips aboard the Barbara II. Photo courtesy of Gone Fishing Marina.

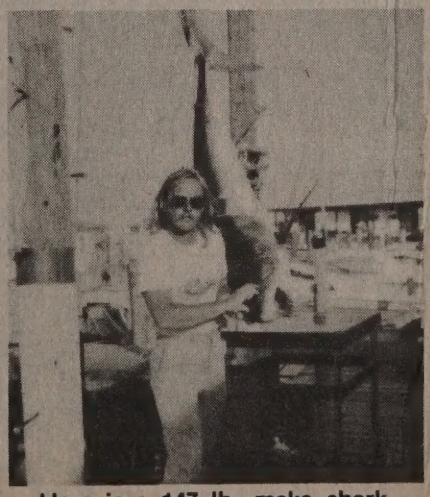
Merle Meggison, Tim Reilly and Gary Goodestal totalled 40 blues to 20 lbs. casting diamond jigs and also fishing herring bait.

Aboard the charter boat **Julie III**, after being turned back by snotty weather Saturday, the BW Morton charter fished Lake Montauk totalling 78 flounder to 1¾ lbs.

During the week, charter boat **King Wayne** on a half day trip for Don Colwell and group from the East Point Inn Fishing Club had 50 blues to 19 lbs. Saturday's trip for Reelers Fishing Club loaded up with blues to 19 lbs. and cod to 20 lbs. Friday's trip for Fortress Maintenance worked south of Block taking 28 cod to 22 lbs. along with 50 blues to 18 lbs. Sunday's group fished south of the Point and on a half day trip bailed 48 big blues to 18 lbs. Most trips were at cartwright and it was all bait fishing.

SOUTH FORK

Aboard the **Wilhelric II** out of **Sag Harbor** although the weekend was lost to the foul weather, Wednesday saw excellent blackfishing with the pool fish going approximately 8 lbs. Most customers had 5-15 blacks per man. All the other days of the week porgies were the target with Monday and Tuesday probably the best porgy days of the season. Most fares had 50-75 fish and a lot of them were 3 lb. class specimens. Hotspot was the NW corner of Plum Island. Blackfishing is being expanded to Tuesdays and



Here is a 147 lb. mako shark which was taken recently aboard the Montauk charter boat "Ebb Tide."

South Shore Report

by Fred Golofaro

Captain John and Jerry Bracco of the Freeport charter boat, "Capt. Ben" and a 285 lb. big-eye taken at Montauk.

Boatmen in all parts of the Island had a tough time this past weekend due to an untimely NE blow which created nearly unfishable conditions both Saturday and Sunday. By the time the winds finally abated Sunday afternoon, it was too late for most anglers to take advantage.

EAST END BAYS & INLETS

Moriches Bay flounder fishing was good during the week but took a beating over the weekend. One pair of anglers that left the **Silly Lilly Fishing Station** at 2PM Sunday when the wind finally did lay down, managed 32 big flounder between 1 & 2 pounds by 4PM fishing in Harts Cove. Luke Stockwell and Narine Ramlogan used bloodworms and heavy mussel and clam chum to take the fish. Gary Grunseich who reported this catch also reported excellent crabbing in Tuthill Cove.

Jim Greene, his brother Tom and two friends with 89 flounder to 1½ lbs. taken in the vicinity of buoy 39 on sand worms and corn and mussel chum. Photo courtesy of L&M Marine in East Moriches.

Over at **Skidmore's Fishing Station**, Jim DeVita suggested Harts Cove and Havens Point as the best bets for flounder. Despite Sunday's wind, one boat finished up with nearly 50 nice flatties. Of the flatfish action during the week, Jim described it as a steady pick of fish in the ¾ to ½ pound range with an occasional 2 pounder mixed in. Chum is important and both worms and dyed clams have been effective as baits. Jim is hopeful that the current shot of cold weather will give the flounder fishing a real boost. He too, extolled the excellent crabbing being found in Seatuck Creekand Havens Point. He thought rings worked best but traps take more than their share.

The best crabbing of the year is under way in the **Mastic Beach** area if the reports from **Stiriz's Fishing Station** are any indication. Bill Stiriz said that catches of 2 bushels per boat are not at all unusual. Flounder fishing had been decent prior to the weekend's blow with the best fishing down near the mouth of Forge River and buoy 23. Bill knew that there were still snappers, porgies, blowfish and kingfish at buoy 17 thru this past week and thought that the current cold snap would help the flounder get a better foothold.

Wednesdays with porgies all other days.

Speck's Tackle in **Southampton** reports that in the Shinnecock area Heady Creek and the Basket and the Canal have been producing some flounder, blackfish and a couple of small stripers. In the Peconics, the porgy fishing has been good with fish smaller but in larger numbers. Noyac Bay has been having good flounder and porgy catches while Sag Harbor has had decent floundering in Northwest Creek.

GREAT SOUTH BAY/ FIRE ISLAND INLET

Paul Graniello of **J & J Sport Shop** in **Patchogue** echoed the sentiments of most tackle men when he stated that the weekend's winds kept most boatmen in the barn. Generally speaking then, Paul thought the best bet for flounder fans was Moriches Bay which also boasts a good run of

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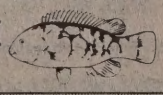

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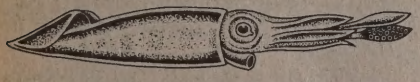

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blue claws for those who bring traps along on their flounder outings. In Great South Bay, most blackfish fans have been concentrating their efforts on the Kismet Reef where most days a fair catch of tautogs can be had.

Dave Canale of **J & R Sport Center** in **Oakdale** knew of lots of crabs being taken in traps by people working from docks and bulkheads along the Connetquot River. One man stopped by with a bushel of big blue claws taken from here last week. A few flounder starting to show off Heckscher and still some flatties off the Sore Thumb although the best flounder fishing seems to be in the State Channel. Some decent blackfish scores being made off of the Sore Thumb on fiddlers and green crabs and still some sea bass back at Ocean Beach. Best bet for blues are the offshore wrecks which have been producing some real slammers on jigs and bait but you need the weather to get outside.

Lisa Cioffi of **Peppy's Tackle Shop** in **East Islip** looked over a catch of blacks from 1-3¾ pounds taken last week on the Kismet Reef with fiddler crabs. Josie Kuszelewicz aboard the "My Thing" checked the catch in. Lisa added that flounder in the state channel and at the Sore Thumb, blacks at the Thumb and the Kismet Reef and good bluefishing outside the inlet for trollers and jiggers.

Capt. Neil Delanoy of the **Bay Shore** open boat **Casey Lee** said that he picked away at blackfish all week and overall described the fishing as inconsistent. Best action was during the week with the weekend being hurt by strong, gusty, northerly winds. Neil reminded that he will begin sailing exclusively for flounder on Friday, October 15th.

Carl Miller who handles the operation at **Smokey's Bait and Tackle** in **Bay Shore** also had a very general report due primarily to the weekend's

strong dose of wind. He knew of a few flounder being taken in the Babylon Cut and at the Thumb, some blackfish at the Thumb and on the é and a few porgies and sea bass at buoy 4, West Channel. Blues in the 3-5 pound class were available to jiggers and trollers along the beach prior to the northeaster but no one had tried them on the weekend.

Members of the **Captree** open and charter fleet took a buffetting over the weekend. While the windy weather put a crimp in the results of weekend fishermen big blues continue to please fares right up until Friday night. Capt. Gordon Roman of the **Captree Queen** called Friday night the best fishing of the year with 15 people accounting for 300 blues from 10 to 20 pounds in just a couple of hours time. Site of the fishing was over a wreck 18 miles south of F.I. Inlet. In Saturday's heavy winds Gordon worked inshore for smaller fish from 1-6 pounds. Those who could stay at the rail mananged 8-10 blues a piece on bait. The Queen will continue night bluefishing for another 2-3 weeks. The weekend flounder fishing left much to be desired as one would expect. Again, strong NE winds were to blame.

Over at **Augie's Tackle Shop** in **Babylon**, Fred Austin had the results of Sunday's **Babylon Tuna Club** Flounder Derby. Joe Paradiso, Jr. led all comers with a 1.12 pound flatty. Of the flounder fishing in general, Fred described it as fair with most boats taking 12-18 fish a trip fishing in the State Channel or off the Sewer Plant. Small blues have been in and out of the inlet and a good shot of big weakfish was enjoyed by boatmen lucky to be on the scene Thursday and Friday. Weaks in the 10-14 pound class readily gobbled live blackfish

Ernest and Joseph Lima with a fine catch of fall run flounder from Moriches Bay. The two anglers fished out of Silly Lily Fishing Station.

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Sal Polisi found time on his recent honeymoon trip to Hawaii to land this 341 lb. blue marlin. It was the W. Babylon angler's first Pacific blue. Subscriber photo.

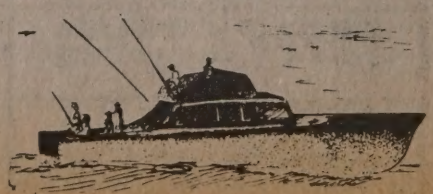
DOING SOMETHING ABOUT THE WEATHER

(Continued from page 6.)

minimal expense.

What sort of information is the Weather Service looking for. First of all, they only need an approximate position. There has been a reluctance on the part of fishermen to cooperate due to the traditional secrecy involved in the business. However, it's of no great importance whether the reporter is on the west or east wall of Hudson Canyon. The fact that he's in the Hudson Canyon area would be sufficient. Information desired includes wind direction and speed, sea wave height, swell and temperature, air temperature, and general weather and visibility. Naturally, if you don't have a water temperature indicator or thermometer you won't be able to provide some of the info they'd like to have.

Hopefully, a reporting system will be worked out and fishermen will be able to cooperate in bringing about more accurate weather reporting and forecasting. The Atlantic Professional Boatmen's Association, Captree Boatmen's Association, and Montauk Captains Association were represented at the meeting—as well as the New York Sportfishing Federation. These, and other sport fishing groups, will be joining with commercial organizations to push for the relatively inexpensive (but potentially lifesaving) changes which can improve the entire weather reporting system. You can do your bit by contacting your congressmen and senators and asking for their cooperation.



being drifted between the Lighthouse and the WR buoy. Doc Bohner aboard the Reet-D had 9 on one day and it was reported the Wild Mouse wound up with a couple of dozen of the huge tiderunners.

In the **Lindenhurst** area, pretty good flounder fishing was available in the State Channel according to Mike at **Lindenhurst Bait and Tackle**. He named East and West Fox Creeks and Garbage Cove as a few of the better spots and noted that the further west one goes the better the action. Best blackfishing appears to be from atop The Sore Thumb with fiddler crabs. A few big blues were taken by liveliners last week in the inlet and excellent crabbing for those putting over traps while flounder fishing.

SOUTH OYSTER BAY

After a weekend of contending with strong winds and super high tides, John Dombrowski at **Pop's Fishing Station** in **Seaford** was content to tell us that flounder fishing was just a pick this past week and that boats continue to return with a mixed bag. John expects, however, that the picture will change abruptly as a result of the current cold snap. John was more enthused about the crabbing which is at its season's peak. Traps, rings and just plain scooping are all accounting for good catches of crabs.

Lon Wanser said that flounder perked up last week in Massapequa Cove, Zach's Bay, Four Corners and the 2nd Bridge. Chummers far and away had the best scores. Lon was

also excited about the current run of crabs and said that those working at the heads of channels with traps had been doing a real job on the blue claws. Many boatmen are mixing their flounder fishing with crabbing. Lon knew of some blues taken in the inlet this week but had no word on any bass action.

Art Wright at **Capt. Eddie's Fishing Staion** in **Seaford** thought that flounder fishing showed signs of improvement this week at Massapequa Cove and Great Island Channel. Still a few kings and sea bass with the flatties. Clam or corn chum is a big help. John and Mary Balcestro came back to the station with a pail and a half on Saturday. Plenty of crabs also in Art's report. Some boats returned with 1½ bushels of nice size blue claws.

Jim at **Merrick Tackle** in **Bellmore** said that boatmen running to Cholera continue to return with some nice catches of bluefish while in the bay flounder are being taken in all the local creeks and channels. Some blackfish at the bridges on fiddlers and green crabs. Overall, the weekend was a bust due to strong NE winds.

Western South Shore Report

by Stu Miller

WEST END BAYS & INLETS

Beginning with the boats out of **Freeport** we learn that the **Starstream II** has enjoyed good bluefishing all week for the most part. Sunday's hook was 14 blues up to 16 lbs. despite the high east winds and Victory at Sea conditions. Sunday's pool winner hit 14 lbs. on the scale. In all the tough conditions those who put in the effort at the rail were rewarded. Night trips have been good also with a steady pick on smaller blues from 2-5 lbs.

From Capt. Mike Dannon of the **Capt. Lou Fleet** we learn that on the full day trips, Monday saw young Kim with 24 flounder. On Tuesday, Marty the Magnet had 17 flounder including a 4 lb. 1 oz. flounder. On Wednesday, 38 flounder was the reward for Reuben and Naomi. On Thursday Bob Keller bagged up with 35 flounder. On Friday, 5-yr.-old John Fusco, Jr. had 9 flatties including a 3 lb. pool winner. On Saturday ''Stick-em'' Howie had 21 flatties and Sunday saw Mrs. Pearl with 24 flounder. Sea bass and porgies with some scattered blackfish are also being taken. Mike's

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George Reynolds and 3 tuna taken aboard the private boat Our Girl III. Subscriber photo.

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half day boat has been having proportionately similar catches.

The **Miss Freeport II** had decent floundering through Friday but Saturday's and Sunday's super NE winds and very high tides hurt the catches.

Freeport Charter Service/Acme II tells us that Thursday's bluefish trip turned out to be a great action packed day with loads of 2-4 lb. blues, bonito and albacore taken at Cholera. A few of the blues ran 6-10 lbs.

From the **Capt. Al** we learned that bluefishing continues to be good on all trips with Sunday being an absolutely super day diamond jigging in the area of the NB buoy with customers bagging up on 2-4 lb. blues.

Flounder catches were also very good this week aboard the **Captain Andy**, and even on the sloppy weekend, good anglers continued to catch flounder. One of the boat's anchors picked up a newly lost net from a small commercial dragger at the southern end of Long Creek this weekend, giving pretty good evidence that there is still illegal dragging going on in these narrow inland creeks. The proper authorities should take careful note, as we at LIF are. As of Sunday night this net was reposing on the dock at **Lou's Fishing Station, Freeport.**

Captain Paul Schmidt's **Aloma II** picked away at flounder right through Sunday, with fair to good catches for those who worked hard.

Freeport Boatmen's Association told us that the weekend weather, bu bummer that it was forced the cancellation of the **Super Spray II** wreck trip and it has been put off until next Sunday, Oct. 17. Some openings are now available. There is also another trip scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 31 for cod and pollack, reservations required. The SS II's daily ocean bottom trips have been scoring very

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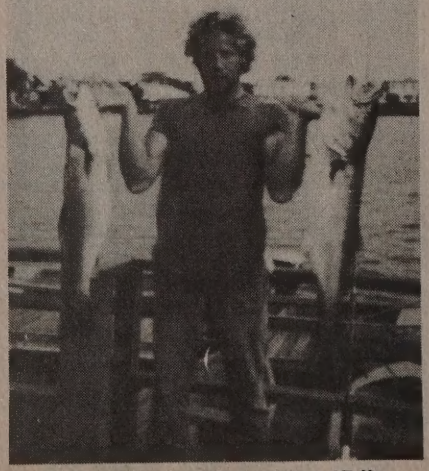
nicely at ocean wrecks on porgies, sea bass and blackfish. The Association's charter boats continue to catch good numbers of bluefish and biggies at Cholera and 17 Fathoms and also south of Cholera on bait. Smaller fish are also being jigged closer in with bonito and albies mixed in. Skippies around the HA and bluefin and yellowfin tuna being trolled from 25-50 miles out.

The word from **Anthony's Fishing Station** is that flounder catches have been fair on their rentals working Swift Creek in the High Flats drain areas and also the south end of Woodcleft Canal. No big numbers, however. Plenty of blackfish under all bridges on fiddlers and green crab along with porgies and sea bass.

Lou's Fishing Station advised that on Saturday, Sea Quest totalled 6 yellowfin tuna and 3 longfin albies at the canyon. Libra II fished the old NOAH area taking a mixed bag of albacorie and yellowfin tuna on plastic. The **Capt. Al** has been having super bluefishing two miles NE of the



Richard Sorrentino with a 17 lb. blue and a 12 lb. weak taken off the Radar Pier in Jamaica Bay on live bunker. Photo courtesy of J-Bay Boat Rentals.

NB on the smaller fish. During the week flounder catches have been decent and blackfish have been showing a lot greater improvement at the local bridges and wrecks.

Over in **Pt. Lookout** the 2 trip a day **Miss Point Lookout** reports flounder have been pretty decent all week with a by-catch of sea bass, blacks and porgies most of the week. On Saturday morning's trip, Eric Olsen had 12 flounder including the pool fish. On the afternoon trip, Earl French grabbed the pool. On Sunday Michael Zakas, Queens had 20 flatties including the pool fish. Monday's special cod trip saw a high hook of 14 mixed cod and pollack Frank Bodinsky, Lindenhurst. Brad Phillips tussled with a 38½ lb. pollack before putting i in his cooler. Doug Knight hoisted a 27½ lb. cod. A lot of big blues were also caught.

Aboard the 2 trip a day **Capt. Bill** the skipper reports the flattie catches were fair to good Mon. thru Friday but tougher on the weekend with the wind and tide conditions. On Sunday

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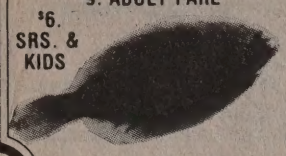

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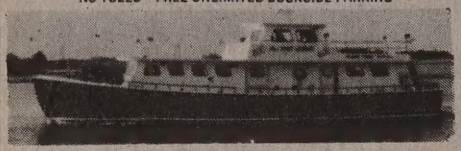

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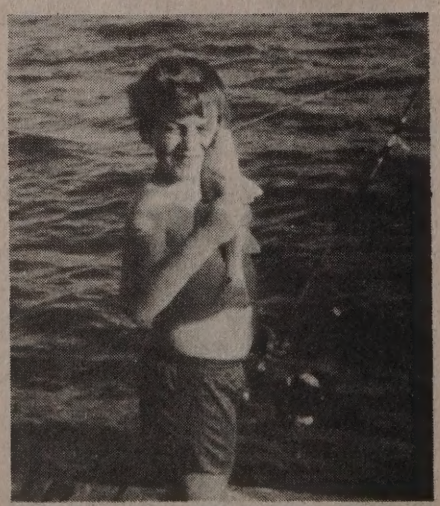

Seven-year-old Richie Simmons, of East Islip, shows one of the many puppy drum he landed while on a recent visit to his grandparents' North Carolina home. Subscriber photo.

PM, some fares had 10-12 flatties each. Fish are running 3/4 to 1½ lbs. with by-catches of sea bass, porgies and blacks mixed in.

Marilyn at **Ed's Fishing Station** had some flounder brought in Sunday. Stan, a regular rental customer brought back 35 flounder fishing worms in the channel from the station to the loop bridge. Some blacks at the Loop and Long Creek bridges to 2½ lbs. Sea bass and porgies all through Reynolds and Swift Creek and the CG areas.

Beckman's Tackle in Lynbrook reports excellent blackfishing at all the bridges, rocks, and local wrecks on fiddlers and green crabs. Flounder action has been "so-so" and if you want flounder you must chum very heavily. The big schools of bonito seem to be mixed in with blues at all depths.

The word from **Long Beach Sports Marina in Long Beach** is that flounder and porgies are being caught in fair to good numbers at the railroad trestle, cement block and behind Duck Island. Blackfish at the Atlantic Beach Bridge, the gong buoy and all jetties. Teen sized blues are hitting umbrellas and bunker spoons being trolled off Jones Beach tower in 15' to 20' of water.

Down at **Atlantic Beach, Reynolds Reef Fishing Station** passed on the word of Bill Foley's (age 13), 15 lb. blue and Warren Sicherman's 7 lb. 6 oz. false albacore. Both fish are on the Atlantic Beach Rod and Gun Club board. Good blackfishing at the AB bridge (both ends), Silver Pt. Jetty and the Rockaway jetties on fiddlers and greenies and skimmers. Flounder have been caught around the railraod trestle, Cedarhurst yacht club, Duck Point and the Magnolia Blvd. Pier. Also try the South side of the Atlantic Beach Bridge. Big blues up to 16 lbs. and their freinds the weaks are being trolled on spoons and umbrellas in 15 to 20 ft. of water from Lido to the Nautilus Hotel. Try the Silver Point jetty with small live blackfish for weaks. Good porgy fishing off the Magnolia Blvd. Pier on worms, fish to 1 lb.

NEW YORK BIGHT

Skippy's Tackle in East Rockaway tells of increased flounder activity in Hog Channel, around the railroad trestle and at Pearsalls despite the strong winds. Blackfishing improving to the point where it is good to very good at the bridges, jetties and wrecks. Porgies, snappers and blue claw crabs remain good items at Bay Park. This should be a good week of fishing coming up after these storms and as we get off the moon tides.

Cross Bay Bait and Tackle in Jamaica Bay reports blackfishing good off both north and south channel bridges on fiddlers, fish averaging ½ to ¾ lbs. Porgies are still good and of good size being taken on worms all over the bay. Flounder improving,

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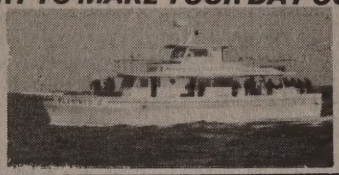

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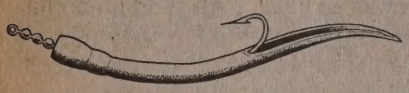

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fish averaging ½ lb. on worms. Some big weaks and blues being taken on bunker chunks all around the bridges. A 13 lb. 12 oz. blue was weighed in Saturday for Frank Filippone, taken off the North Channel bridge on a bunker chunk. Don Keller of Broad Channel socked it to a 19 lb. 4 oz. blue taken from a boat fishing Jamaica Bay with a bunker chunk on the bottom.

The **Sheepshead Bay** open boat **Flamingo III** tells of good catches Monday through Friday of mostly 2-5 lb. blues. Saturday was poor, but Sunday bounced back again with good bluefishing with a lot of 5-6 lb. fish plus 5 stripers and a scattering of bones and albies. Wednesday also saw 5 striped bass taken. All action is on diamonds and the blues are holding up so well that sharp anglers are getting anywhere from 70-90 per man. Captain Walt is looking for more bass to be mixed in in the weeks to come as the fall migrations continue.

In **Staten Island Santo's Sport Shop** says that the fishing continues to be fair to good with some 8-10 lb. weaks off Oakwood Beach on life bait for those fishing from boats. Princess Bay has had 2-3 lb. blues being taken on chunk bait or on trolled umbrellas. In Great Kills Harbor at night jumbo blues are hitting any style of bunker. Around Hoffman and Swinburne Islands and the VZ bridge schoolie bass are being taken on sand worms. Great Kills and Princess Bay bug lights are seeing good blackfish catches. West Bank and old Orchard lighthouse, same thing. For a good mixed bag, try the Stapleton Piers right now.

North Shore Report

by Marty Garrell

A low pressure system last weekend provided an unpleasant surprise for small boaters and most shore anglers, and strong northeast winds put the damper on fishing for most of the weekend until Sunday night. Waters are still warm, however, with porgies and snappers still showing before the blow, and a bass run may also be in the making. Fishing next week is expected to be excellent as a result.

WESTERN SOUND

Jack's Bait in City Island reported steady blackfish action in sheltered waters around Prospect and Sands Point and around Harts Island as well. Sizes of 2-6 lbs. were the norm on the **North Star,** according to Jack Rumpf, with a 12 lb. monster tautog weighed in at the Station standing as the season's best. Flounder action was also pretty good with sizes over one pound.

John's Gun & Tackle in New Rochelle mentioned some big blues under the bunker schools in Mamaroneck and Hempstead Harbors with wire line trollers scoring on smaller fish from 2-4 lbs. Flounder action is on the upswing, and blackfish are in shallow water areas with hard bait the best choice.

Before the sour weekend, Dave Watt at the **Glen Cove Sport Shop** liked the bass fishing for fish to 10 lbs. and the dependable bluefish action on pencil poppers and Rebels near the shore. Chunks work well in the harbors, especially when anglers use the fresh mackerel available in Hempstead Harbor. Carl Smith was doing well on blues to 6 lbs. around Bayville.

Pete Pearson on the **Klondike VIII** out of New Rochelle reported a decent week on blues in the 2-5 lb. class with catches ranging from 10-25 per rod. The big boat was fishing Stratford or Eaton's and see-

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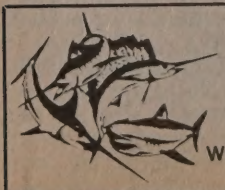

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ing a few slammers to 10 lbs. or more.

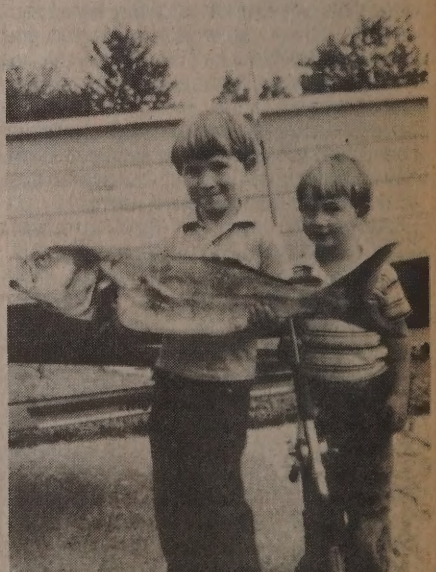
Dom Cerbone's **Apache** from City Island was picking up a lot of small blackfish inshore in 15-20' of water and already noticing signs of life in the 30-35' depths. Catches range from 5-15 tautog per rod with a few fish over 6 lbs. mixed in. Cerbone hopes that the little northeaster will "wake 'em up." Saturday's catch off Norwalk was down because of the rough weather, of course.

NORTH SHORE MID-ISLAND

Ronnie Ferraro at **Ronnie's** in Huntington said that Huntington Inlet had some big blues through Saturday morning. Bob Michaels cashed in wwith an enormous 21 lb. gorilla, taken on bunker chunk from Centerport on Friday. Blackfish are now available in good numbers off 11B on the high spot in 30' of water, according to Jerry Cedar at **Huntington Prop.** Target Rock and Marshall Field are worth a shot too. Harbor flounder to 3/4 lb. are showing nicely, especially off the Sea Wall at the end of the Harbor.

Tom Bowman at **Bowman's** felt that the Worm Bar, Crab Meadow, and the area east of Eaton's were worth trying now for larger flounder with blackfish off Buoy 13. Some big blues were reported between 9 and 11 PM from Sand City to Lloyd's for boat anglers.

The **Caraftis Fishing Station** in Port Jefferson was seeing small flounder and porgies inside the Har-



Five-year-old Mathew Schwartz did an admirable job in bringing this 12 lb. blue to gaff on a Penn 9MS and 12 lb. test. Along with his 3-year-old brother David and dad Jack, the trio landed a total of 35 blues off of Wading River. Most were 2-4 lbs. Subscriber photo.

bor with Flack's Pond and Oldfield producing blackfish from 3-6 lbs.

Ralph Davenport at **Ralph's** in Mount Sinai liked the tautog action on green crabs in shallow water. He's weighed a few fish already that were over 8 lbs. The Harbor has decent flounder to 1 lb. on worms and clams, and the big question is whether the porgies will still be around after the blow.

On the open boat scene, Packy Collins was still hauling good catches of blues off the Obstruction Buoy and Buoy 11B until the weekend. Packy even had a few good drifts on Saturday with a steady pick for half an hour by those stalwarts who were still at the rail of the **Ever Ready.** The **Packy IV** loaded up on one charter early in the week with solid action on 3-11 lb. blues, and there were a few bass one week ago Sunday; then that action dropped to nothing later in the week.

The **Aqua Gem** was still working on porgies through the past week with an occasional sea bass; blackfishing was good but not spectacular. Tautog run 3-4 lbs. in the waters where John Fisher has been working.

NORTH FORK

The **Mattituck Inlet Fishing Station** had excellent porgy fishing through the week with fine blackfish action from the Firing Range to the Motel. Tautog are still in close, in 9-12' of water. Two blackfish on the scales one week ago Sunday went 8 and 10 lbs.

Ace Cottral at the **Port of Egypt** in Southold put some boats on the bay over the weekend and saw modest catches of small blackfish from the Brickyard and the Greenlawns, as well as flounder. The better flatfishing, as long as it remains untouched by draggers, will be east of the Breakwater, inside Long Beach, off the Orient by the Sea Marina, and close to the Orient ferry.

Art White at the **A.P. White Bait Shop** in Greenport looked at a good week on blues and bass with spotty flounder action. Porgy counts were fair but sizes were big. White tells us that the boats, both open and charter, will be quitting after November 14.

Richie Jensen of the **Nancy Ann** informed us that bluefish action in local hot spots like Pigeon Rip has been excellent on bluefish to 8 lbs. and that there were even bigger fish off Gardiner's for a few days. Jensen advises the use of 6-8 oz. jigs in order to avoid bite-offs. Blackfish in the Plum-Gull-Fishers zone are in 30-40' of water with good numbers of 5-6 tautog and a few larger bulldogs.

Anna May Rainis said that the **Blue Albatross** was doing very well on blackfish with pool sizes to 9 lbs. John Rainis was doing much of his fishing in 20-25' depths and figures that waters are still warm.

Dave Brennan called to say that the **Peconic Star** was encouraged by New London's porgy upswing last week and has decided to go one more week on the big scup. The jumbos in the bay run as large as 3½ lbs., and blackfish from 5 to 10 lbs.

Five big blackfish up to 13 lbs. taken near Shelter Island by Lloyd Sweet and Paul Huth. Photo courtesy of Port of Egypt Fishing Station in Southold.

take the daily pool. Even under extreme conditions on Saturday, Brennan felt the fishing was very good, and Friday's anglers had a very good shot.

Surf Report

by Fred Golofaro

Better late than never some reports of stripers finally filtered into the surf reports this week. Added to this were reports of good bluefish action along many beaches around the Island. Keeping in mind that I lean towards optimistic tendencies, I would have to say that we finally have a fall run shaping up.

Starting with **Staten Island**, Kevin Koncelik said that bass action was still lacking in this area but that blues averaging 10 pounds along with some weaks have been pleasing after dark casters along the beaches at Great Kills and Annandale. Most of this fishing is with bait with most casters using either live sand porgies or bunker chunks. Kevin, who mans the counter at **Santo's Sport Shop**, noted that the area is well supplied with bait and especially abundant are schools of bunker.

Saturday's NE blow was no deterrant for Perry Cohen of Melville who worked the Jones Beach surf in the early AM with an old home-made Calcutta surf stick and a live eel. To say he was rewarded for his efforts would be an understatement. Later that morning Perry dragged a 52 pound striper into **Lou's Fishing Station** in **Freeport** for weighing.

Lon Wanser of **Wanser's Tackle Shop** in **Seaford** knew that casters picked away all week at blues of mixed sizes on bait, tins and plugs. He also had reports of similar action

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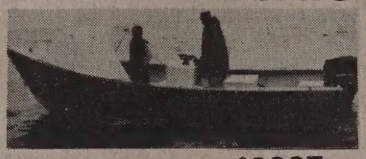

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Peter Chichester and Brian Swayze with a pair of 10 lb. class weaks taken in the Pt. Lookout surf on red jelly worms. Subscriber photo.

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at Democrat Point. Biggest fish to come to his attention this past week was a 16 pound blue taken out of the Jones Beach surf.

From **J & R Sport Shop** in **Oakdale** and **J & J Tackle** in **Patchogue** came similar reports of a 40 pound striper taken on a Hopkins at Smith's Point on Saturday. Paul Graniello of J & J expounded on the activity in this area. He knew that small blues were spread all along the beach from Shinnecock through Moriches during last week. Towards the end of the week, there was a good shot at 5-8 pound blues in the area of Great Gun on tins and plugs. Some bass were also sprinkled along these beaches. One caster had 4 husky schoolies on yellow darters Saturday evening. Another, Norman Orsinger was a little less conventional in his methods. The veteran surfman was quick to recognize a good thing when he had a 29 pound striper gobble a 2 pound bluefish that he was in the process of fighting. He let his next blue swim free and again a big bass repeated the performance. This time however the fish was dropped. Norman expanded on the technique a few minutes later when he rigged a freshly caught blue and returned it to the surf. A 13 pound blue rewarded hi efforts.

To the east, Thom at **Speck's Bait and Tackle** in **Southampton** told of a good run of blues which developed last week along a long expanse of ease end beach from East Hampton to Shinnecock. Fish are of mixed sizes and here and there a few weaks were mixed with them. Both tins and plugs accounted for fish. Thom also had some bass news although details were lacking. One caster weighed in a pair of fish taken Thursday night from

somewhere local with 28 and 38½ pound fish were taken on live eels.

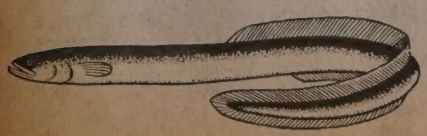
Bass starved **Montauk** casters finally saw some reason for optimism just prior to the stiff Northeaster which made the weekend fishing at the point all but impossible. The two most impressive stripers taken up front Friday night were a 39 pounder by wet suiter Joey Bragan and a 37 pounder taken by Joe Kayal. Some smaller fish in addition to a few weakfish were taken by other casters the same night. Johnny Kronuch of **Johnny's Tackle Shop** in **Montauk** who weighed the two big bass reminded that despite the prior lack of bass action plenty of small blues in the 2-4 pound range continue to be in evidence at the point. Fish are all along the south side beaches as well as up front.

In the western extremities of Long Island Sound, casters have been working over school bass and bluefish on rebels and pencil poppers. This according to Dave Watt at **Glen Cove Sport Shop**. Dave was particularly enthused about the activity in the Hempstead Harbor area. Part of the justification in this must have come from Frances "Red" Scanlon's 47½ pound striper which was taken 7AM Monday morning just prior to our phone conversation. It was taken from a local beach inside Hempstead Harbor on a home-made Pencil Popper.

In the **Huntington** area, Ronnie Ferraro of **Ronnies Tackle Shop** said that there has been a pretty steady pick of blues from local beaches. Among them, Sand City. Some fish are being taken on plugs although bait has been accounting for the majority of the choppers.

The **Rocky Point** area came alive with bass and blues last week according to Stan at **Rocky Point Fishing Stop**. Bass are schoolies to 12 pounds while blues range anywhere from 3 pounds on up to real monsters in the high teens. Bass action is primarily after dark and there have been blues mixed with the bass on swimming plugs such as Rebels and Red Fins and droppers. Stan noted that both red gill and feather teasers have been accounting for most of the bass. Among those taking fish this past week was Larry Swank with 4 bass to 8 pounds one night. Jim Robinson had an 11 pound blue along with a few bass, Chuck Schloss topped off a catch of 5 bass with a 13¾ pound blue taken on a Red Fin.

On the North Fork, reports of good action from a mixture of blues and bass on popping plugs, Rebels and Red Fins came from Ed Kopack at **Warren's Tackle Shop** in **Aquebogue**. Best fish of the week was a 28 pound striper taken by a local caster.



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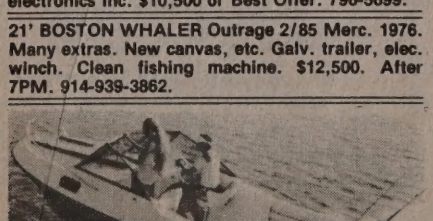

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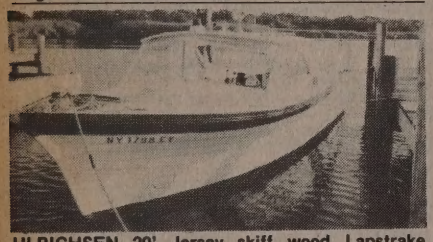

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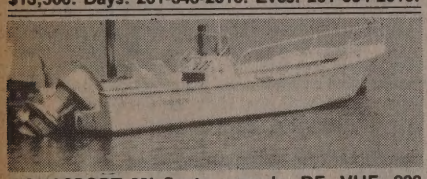

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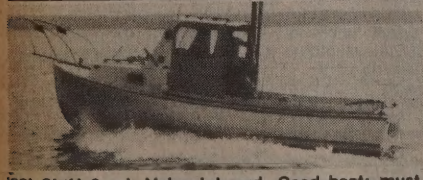

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1973 SEACRAFT 20' Sportfish 1976 Evinrude 135 h.p. w/SST 50 gal. fuel. Lowrance white line, dual batt., new controls, Morse & Telex, rod spreader, fuel filter, spare prop, auto. bilge, compass, CB, w/ant, anchor w/200', rod holder & rack & more. FIRST $5400 takes it all! John Ricci, 212-421-3700.

1980 MFG Morrison Duke Elite, 22' 3" Cream w/brown flake stripe, cuddy cabin, stereo, VHF, sink, Porta-Potty, diamond tuft interior, play pen, rugs. Full instrumentation; power steering, auto. bilge pump, 260 Merc. I/O. Full canvas. Comp. CG pkg., swim platforms, ski rings, swivel bucket seats, remote bow lite. Everying on circuit breakers. Boat in showroom cond. $13,500. 475-4485 Days.

1979 30' SISU w/1981 200 h.p. Perkins. Less than 400 hrs. Set up for sport fishing. Two station steering, fighting chair, gin pole, outriggers, rod racks, etc. Full electronics. $45,000. Conn. 1-203-838-0503.

Two 6-cylinder marine Chrysler engines w/ hydraulic transmissions. $250 ea. Or will sell parts separately. 516-878-1180.

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1976 22' AQUASPORT Family Fisherman, cuddy 165 h.p. Mercruiser I/O, FWC, teak platform. Mint cond.; must see. $9500. 516-766-3347.

Don't miss out on marlin & tuna again! Blue water fisherman's dream. 1977 Mako 25', 1981 Evinrude 235. Full electronics; loaded. Must be seen. $17,000. Call Eves. 516-599-4325.

WANTED DEAD OR ALIVE!
Cash waiting for your unwanted Johnson or Evinrude outboard motor. Used parts available. 516-727-7473. Eves.

1980 9.8 Mercury O/B. Excl. cond.; very low hrs. Best offer. Wkdays. 609-983-3096; Wknds. 609-597-6214.

17' 1968 OLDTOWN, Deep V runabout. All fiberglass; 75 HP Johnson. Teleflex steering, trailer. All good cond. $1895. After 5PM. 516-567-1714.

14' STARCRAFT Alum. 1981, Highlander galv. trailer w/bearing buddies 1981. $800. 25 h.p. Evinrude 1982 $1000. Extras. 212-229-8153.

BOATING EQPT.

Stainless steel handrail for Mako custom console, $100; Lees 18' outriggers w/flush mount bases, $225. All mint; used one season. 516-681-2517.

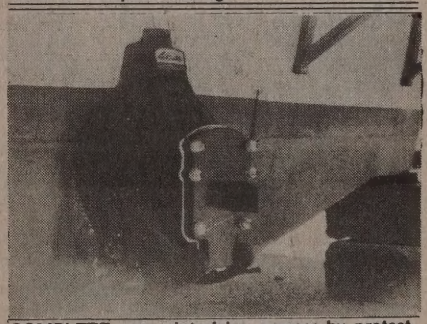
Winter Canvases up to 50% off. Winter storage from $6.50 a foot 19'-28'. 519 BOAT YARD, Copiage; 516-789-8789.

TUNA TOWERS, HALF TOWERS & RADAR ARCHES—Custom made to your specifications. Anodized aluminum construction; welded joints. Delivered & fitted to your boat. Controls optional. Free estimates. Also self-inflating life rafts. Call Bob Christian, Eves: 516-979-9193.

FOR SALE: Boat covers. Factory direct. Save $. Tear resistant; mildew proof, waterproof, lightweight. Satisfaction guaranteed. Any size. Call 800-231-6074. Ask for Bear Claw Boat Cover into or write: P.O. Box 33248, Houston, TX 77233.

Paper recorder, Ray Jefferson Model 5300, dual range, recorder flasher. Excl. Cond. Sold boat. Needs transducer. $100. Day: 516-681-6666. Night: 516-757-6278.

100% Stainless steel marine products: rails, towers, ladders, brackets, hinges, cleats, rod holders, shafts, struts, chocks, fasteners, pulpit. Custom & standard products avail. SEABRITE STAINLESS SALES CO., 63 Morris Ave & Hwy. #35, Neptune City, NJ 07753; 201-988-8818. Send $2.25 for complete catalog.



COMPLETE your winterizing process by protecting exposed parts after removing your Mercruiser O/D for winter storage. This unique protective cover & gasket will seal out all dirt, grit, & rain. To order, send check or M.O. for $19.95 to: ROSATO MARINE, 37 Beach Ave., Copiague, NY 11726. N.Y. residents add 7¼% sales tax.

50% Off List price on all winter covers in stock. BURCK, 526 City Island Ave., Bronx, NY; 212-885-1667.

LOWRANCE 1510-C chart recorder, 1982 model. Used once w/full warranty & original packaging. Moving inland; must sell. $475. 212-455-5665 days. Ask for Mark.

OMC Stainless Steel prop for sterndrive engine, 14x13. Good condition. $75. 212-939-7215.

Continued On Next Page

COMPASSES—COMPASSES—COMPASSES
Remember, if it has anything to do with compasses at all, give me a call! Huge inventory of Ritchie compasses. Expert installation & adjustment. Authorized repair service. I also carry a complete line of binoculars, sextants, clocks, barometers. JENS JACOBS NAUTICAL SERVICE, 516-757-7169.

BOAT TRAILER, 6,000 lb. capacity positive tilt, tandem 14" wheels. Hydraulic brakes can haul 21' boat. $1250. 589-7237.

TRAILER HITCHES. The most complete Draw-Tite line of Class I & II hitches in stock in Long Island. Sales, installations & service. TOM CASH WELDING* Lake Ronkonkoma. 516-JU 8-6143.

BOAT TRAILERS FOR RENT: Single & Tandem axle. Daily, weekly, monthly rates. Temporary & Permanent hitches for Sale or Rent. BARN TRAILER SERVICE, 57-06 Broadway, Woodside, New York; 212-426-7039.

BOAT TRAILER REPAIR. Complete w/all new galvanized parts. FAZIO MFG., INC., 87 Arlington Ave., St. James, NY 11780; 516-265-3036.

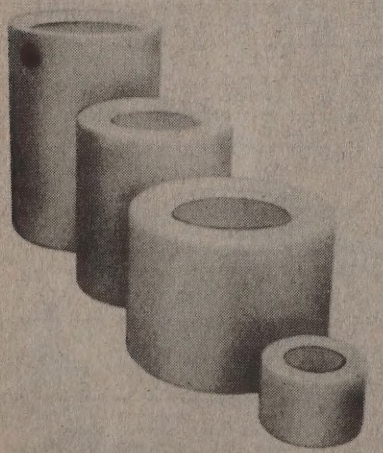
FISHING TACKLE

FLOUNDER KILLER RIGS. Flounder are committing suicide on this famous 3-hook rig specially designed for the "meat fisherman." Special design & construction keeps tangles at a minimum. All hand-made finest quality material. 3 completely tied rigs for $3.50. Send check or M.O. to: P. MILLER, 150 Babylon Tpke, Merrick, NY 11566.

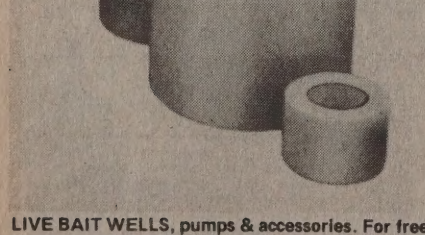
NEW! Automatic Fishing Reel. Many uses: boats, docks, poles, & more. It lures, catches & holds automatically! Free Brochure: CALLENDER, Box 136LF, Springfield Gdns, NY 11413.

#6 Sprout flounder hooks. Hand-tied 6/$1.00. AL KAPLAN, 35-63 80th St., Jackson Hgts, NY 11372.

EVERYTHING for the Saltwater Fisherman. Quality tackle & accessories at lowest prices. Satisfaction guaranteed. Free 76-p. catalog. THE TACKLE BOX, Dept. FG-22, Falmouth, Cape Cod, Mass. 02540.



LIVE BAIT WELLS, pumps & accessories. For free brochure send $.25 p/h. THE CADDY CO., 57 Bayonne Ave., Dept. E., Central Islip, New York 11722; 516-234-0144.



DROPPERS—hand tied premium hackle on 5/0 stainless Mustad hook. Deadly on bass, blues & weaks. White, yellow, blue, olive, brown, black. 5/$7.45; 10/$12.95. Incl. $1.05 shipping; CT residents 7½% tax. Send to ANGLING AIDS, P.O. Box 280, Old Saybrook, Ct. 06475. Instructions & hints included.

130# Trolling rod, aluminum butt, Mildrum guides, w/case. Unused. $175; 1 h.p. gas outboard motor; excl. Missing prop. $75. Small model Luxor reel, $50. Homemade gun cabinet, 2-door. $30. 516-541-7377.

BUCKO'S Parts & Service Center. We carry parts for Daiwa, Kencor, Olympic, Newell, Ryobi, Penn, Shimano, Zebco, Quick, Mitchell. To order, call 617-674-7900, or write: P.O. Box 87, Fall River, Mass. 02724.

FREE CATALOG. Fine fishing tackle at low, low prices. Write to: WEST FALMOUTH TACKLE, Box 690E, West Falmouth, MA 02574.

MISCELLANEOUS

Fantastic Florida Keys fishing. Duck Key Condo. Sleeps 4; fully furnished. Reasonable. 516-589-7005.

LIVE BAIT EELS
Available to retailers & fishermen at wholesale prices. $1.00 per lb.; 25 lb. minimum. Stock up now for fall bass run. 516-581-3563.

Successful charter boat, 35 pass. cap.; fully equipped & business for sale. Excl. South Shore location. Replies to: P.O. Box 3587, New Hyde Park, N.Y. 11042.

WANT TO BUY good late model "plain vanilla" Jeep Cherokee? Have for sale drivable 1970 Wagoneer. Good drive train, weak 350 engine, so-so body & bad floor. 203-322-3577.

CASIO WATERSPORT WATCHES. People who take to the water will surely take to this digital, on the deck of a boat or below the waves, this watch is water resistant to (50 meters), 150' below the water. Features incl. stopwatch, hourly time signal, daily alarm, calendar, microlight for nite viewing, 5-yr. Lithium batt. Model W-22 now only $22.95. Model W-300, 100 meter, watersports, incl. all of the features of the W-22 plus an hourly/half-hourly alarm, countdown alarm w/repeat, 7-hr. Lithium batt. Now only $29.95. Add $2.50 U.P.S. & handling for each watch ordered. Both watches come with a 1-yr. warranty from Casio. Send check or M.O. to: INTER-AMERICA TRADING CORP., 16 W. 22nd St., Suite 200A, Dept. LF-2, New York, NY 10010.

SAVE MONEY
Turn your favorite rods back to new. All types of rod repairs & wraps in stock. Custom built IGFA rods, 12, 20, 30, 50. Rods sold individually. Discounts on complete sets. Special orders accepted. 516-724-0478 after 6PM.

1955 WILLY'S 4WD S.W. Needs motor rebuilt or swap. With/Without 7' belt pump Meyers Plow. Best offer. 914-969-1852. Eves.

TURKEY HUNTERS/ Secrets Revealed! Rush SASE for Free information. Dept. LIF, Box 451, Brooklyn, NY 11235.

PIPE SMOKERS—Try sample pouch of new Cavendish tobacco on your next fishing trip! Send $2 to WESTWINDS, P.O. Box 201, College Point, NY 11356.

HUNTERS—Deer skinned, cut up & wrapped, by experienced butcher. $30. 516-724-2290.

HELP WANTED
Knowledgeable fisherman, must know reel repair & rod building. Experienced & personable to operate bait & tackle shop. More than one person required. Call with experience & requirements. 8-5 Any Day. 665-0293.

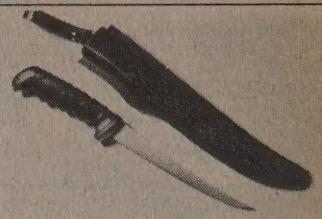
HUNTERS & Fishermen—the season is here. Let me mount your trophy from porgies to sailfish or from bears to hummingbirds. I will work hard for you to make that special moment last for years to come. Your friend, Ronald Frazier Taxidermist. INWOOD TAXIDERMY, over 15 years. exp. Federal & State lic.; 516-239-7716.

1972 INTERNATIONAL 4WD; camper sleeps 4. Plow, new Western wheels & large tires, stereo, buckets. Ready to go. $3250. Will consider small car trade. Give me a call 842-1579.

FULLY LICENSED CAPTAIN—Available for charters, water deliveries, transfers, individual trips; boat handling instruction. 516-795-4498.

Atlantic Chartering Service, 26' Carver, 1-4 passenger. Fully equip. Reasonable rates. For information & reservations, contact Captain Paul, 516-488-5507.

HUNTERS: Why pay $50 or more? Have your deer skinned, cut, freezer wrapped by a professional butcher. 14th year deer cutting. $30. Bob, 665-8839.



FILLET KNIFE & SHEATH 6" Stainless steel blade. Molded rubber handle, overall length 11". Molded plastic sheath. $7.50 incl. all taxes; add $2.50 U.P.S. & handling. Dexter-Russell 6" Carbon Steel blade fillet knife, beechwood handle w/oversized brass rivets, reinforced waterproof s sheath. $9.95. Add $2.50 U.P.S. & handling. Send check or M.O. to: INTER-AMERICA TRADING CORP., 16 W. 22nd St., Suite 200A, Dept. LF-2, New York, NY 10010.

TERMITE PROOFING: Low, low prices. All work guaranteed. Easy payment plan. Complete clean-out: roaches, mice, ants, etc. GENERAL CORPORATION, 731-7100; 293-1819.

FISHERMAN'S WEEKEND AT
Colonial Shores Deluxe Resort on Tiana Bay in Hampton Bays. Friday-Sunday accommodations in our luxurious units + a "free rowboat." $65 per person. 5 minutes away from Shinnecock Bay for fluke & flounder fishing at its best. 516-728-0011, 83 West Tiana Rd., Hampton Bays, NY 11946.

WANT to catch more fish this year? Read "The First Book of Angling Ideas," written by editors of The Fisherman magazines. It has 8 chapters on everything from flounder to cod jigging in the Gulf of Maine to shark fishing to the basics of Loran C for small boats. Complete w/color cover & over 80 illustrations & drawings. 96-pages. Send $3.95 plus $.53 p/h to BARRETT & COLEMAN Publications, 339 Herbertsville Rd., Brick Town, NJ 08723. NJ residents add $.25 Sales Tax.

FISH IDENTIFICATION CHART—shows 85 salt & fresh water species native to our East Coast. Lithographed in beautiful, lifelike color on heavy, coated stock. Suitable for framing; size 36"x24". Send ck. or M.O. for $9.95 to: P. MILLER, 150 Babylon Tpke, Merrick, NY 11566.

REAL ESTATE

OWN A WATERFRONT Summer Place in the Hamptons. Incl. a sandy beach, dockage for your boat, & a 1 or 2 bdrm cottage; all located on beautiful Tiana Bay, nr. Shinnecock Inlet. A total of 18 co-op cottages are being offered. Average cash down for 1-bdrm type-$15,500; average monthly payment-$415. For more info, call or write: CEDARS ON TIANA BAY, 30 Rampasture Rd., Hampton Bays, NY 11946; 516-728-8558.

WATERFRONT—Meister Beach, Freeport, on canal, overlooking bay. Custom built, 3 bdrms, 2Bths, Fpl, 2-car garage. 516-546-1480.

FOR SALE: Small, busy fishing station; boats, motors, all accessories. Bait & tackle store, large beautiful workshop & 2-family home. All in excl. cond. South Shore. Nassau. For address & appt. to view, please write to: P.O. Box 441, Merrick, New York 11566.

FOR SALE
Keene, N.H.—4.2 wooded acres. Water & elec. access. Must sell. Asking $10,000. Call after 6PM. 516-725-3915.

Affordable Waterfront Home. Call for details. 212-525-5724.

BEACH BUGGIES

1976 INT. SCOUT Traveler, 304, V-8, 4-wheel drive, w/hubs. Low mileage. Excl. $4000. After 5PM. 751-6541.

HAVE SOMETHING TO SELL?
LET OUR CLASSIFIEDS DO IT FOR YOU!

High Tide Tables

How to use tide tables:

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet...–0 50" is listed under "ON SANDY HOOK." –0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6½ hours to this figure.

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	Breakwater Harbor AM	Breakwater Harbor PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGE-PORT AM	BRIDGE-PORT PM	NEWPORT AM	NEWPORT PM	DATE
THUR.	6:35	6:50	7:20	7:40	7:10	7:30	8:00	8:25	10:30	10:55	9:50	10:15	6:15	6:40	10/14
FRI.	7:20	7:35	8:05	8:25	7:55	8:15	8:45	9:10	11:15	11:45	10:40	11:05	7:00	7:25	10/15
SAT.	8:05	8:20	8:50	9:10	8:40	9:00	9:30	10:00	–	12:00	11:25	11:50	7:50	8:10	10/16
SUN.	8:45	9:00	9:30	9:55	9:20	9:40	10:10	10:40	12:30	12:40	–	12:10	8:30	8:50	10/17
MON.	9:20	9:40	10:15	10:35	10:00	10:25	10:55	11:20	1:10	1:15	12:35	12:50	9:15	9:35	10/18
TUE.	10:00	10:20	10:55	11:15	10:45	11:05	11:35	–	1:45	1:45	1:15	1:30	9:55	10:15	10/19
WED.	10:40	11:00	11:30	11:55	11:25	11:50	12:05	12:15	2:20	2:15	2:00	2:10	10:40	11:00	10/20
THUR.	11:20	11:40	–	12:15	–	12:10	12:50	1:00	2:55	2:45	2:40	2:55	11:20	11:45	10/21

On SANDY HOOK

STATEN ISLAND	+0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	–0 01
Red Bank, Navesink, R.I.	+0 48
Long Branch	–0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	–0 18
Shark River Basin	+0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	–0 12
Seaside Park	–0 33
Mantoloking zbridge	+5 34
TOMS RIVER	+4 37
Waretown	+2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	–0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+2 33
Beach Haven	+1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	–0 01
Seven Islands	+0 12
Graveling Point	+1 05
Mullica River	+1 55
Grassy Bay	+1 08
ABSECON INLET	+0 14
Atlantic City Pier	–0 26
Gt. Egg Harbor Inlet	+0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+0 46
CORSON INLET	+0 09
TOWNESEND INLET	+0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+0 45
Cape May Harbor	–0 02
Rehoboth Beach	–0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+0 14
SHINNECOCK INLET	–0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+1 25
East Quogue	+2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+1 18
Indian Reservation	+3 05
MORICHES INLET	–0 56
Smith's Point	+3 28
Harts Cove	+1 30
Pontunck Point	+3 35
Mastic Beach	+3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	–0 38
Democrat Point	–0 38
Coast Guard Station	–0 19
Fire Island Light	+0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+3 39
Heckscher State Pk.	+3 20
Bay Shore	+2 23
Babylon	+2 12
Amityville	+2 21
JONES INLET	–0 19
Zachs Bay	+1 25
Seaford Harbor	+2 05
Freeport Creek	+0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	–0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	–0 00
Beach Ch. Bridge	+0 38
JFK Airport	+0 26

On BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+0 08
Bayville Bridge	+0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+0 03
Northport Bay	+0 03
Norwalk Islands	+0 10
Smithtown Bay	–0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+0 03
New Haven Harbor	+0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	–0 08
Herod Point	–0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+0 19
Horton Point	–0 20
Truman Beach	–0 42
Falkner Island	–0 13
Sachem Head	–0 10
Branford Harbor	–0 07
New Haven Harbor	–0 08
Milford Harbor	–0 07
Stratford	+0 27
Shelton	+1 36
Black Rock Harbor	–0 03
Saugatuck River	–0 01
South Norwalk	+0 10
Greens Ledge	–0 01
Stamford	+0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+0 06
Greenwich	+0 02

On NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+0 27
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+0 12
Greenport	+1 04
Southold	+1 43
New Suffolk	+2 26
South Jamesport	+2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+2 33
Noyack Bay	+2 05
Sag Harbor	+0 59
Gardiners Bay	+0 21
Promised Land	–0 14
Montauk Inlet	–0 25
Montauk Point	–1 13
Niantic	+1 20
Stonington	–0 33
Noank, Mystic River	–0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove	–0 01
Norwich	+0 09
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook jetty	+1 10
Lyme	+1 24
Essex	+1 38
East Haddam	+2 41
Higganum Creek	+2 54

On WILLETS PT.

Little Neck Bay	–0 10
Execution Light	–0 06
Manhasset Bay	–0 01
Hempstead Harbor	–0 11
City Island	–0 03
Rye Beach	–0 28
Port Chester	–0 09
Mamaroneck	–0 08
New Rocheele	–0 24
Davids Island	–0 02

On B'WATER HB.

CAPE MAY POINT	–0 10
Miami Beach	+1 17
East Point	+0 53
Egg Island Point	+0 33
Cape Henlopen	–0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+0 09
Mispillion River Ent.	+0 33
St. Jones River Ent.	+0 57

On NEW YORK

Jersey City	+0 07
Geo. Washington Br.	+0 46
Spuyten Duyvil	+0 58
Ossining	+1 53
Peekskill	+2 24
West Point	+3 16
Newburg	+3 42

On NEWPORT

Sakonnet	–0 10
Tiverton	+0 21
Beavertail Point	–0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Pt.	+0 10
Bristol	+0 10
Warren	+0 21
Nayett Point	+0 12
Pawtucket	+0 21
East Greenwich	+0 16
Wickford	+0 12
Narragansett Pier	–0 08
Point Judith Harbor	–0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+0 05
Old Harbor	–0 14
Watch Hill Point	+0 44

Sunrise/Sunset

10/15	7:12	6:20
10/16	7:14	6:18
10/17	7:15	6:16
10/18	7:16	6:14
10/19	7:17	6:12
10/20	7:18	6:11
10/21	7:19	6:09

Moonrise/Moonset

10/15	5:23AM	6:02PM
10/16	6:29AM	6:30PM
10/17	7:34AM	6:58PM
10/18	8:39AM	7:27PM
10/19	9:42AM	7:59PM
10/20	10:43AM	8:35PM
10/21	11:42AM	9:15PM

Moon Phases

NEW	1st Qtr	FULL	2nd Qtr.
10/17	10/25	10/3	10/9

The Original Knight

SOLUNAR TABLES

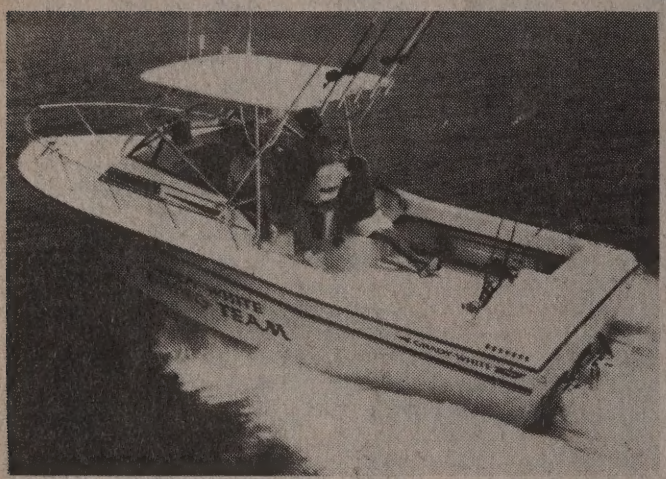
When To Fish Or Hunt

The schedule of solunar periods for this week as printed below have been taken from the original ***KNIGHT SOLUNAR TABLES.*** Plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during these times when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

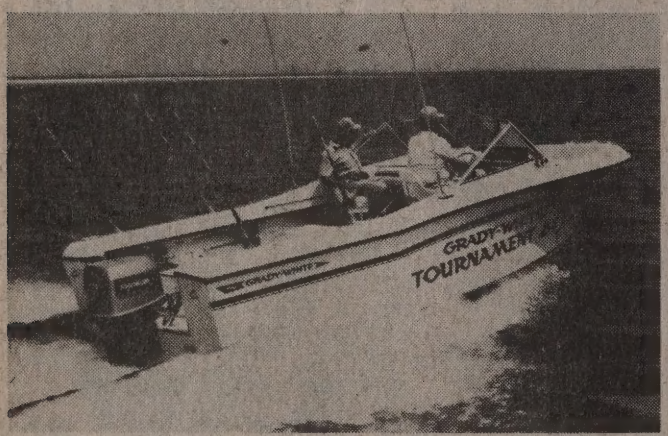
The major periods begin at the time shown and last for 1½ to 2 hours thereafter, and are in the bold type face. The minor periods are shorter in duration and lighter type face.

	AM Minor	AM Major	PM Minor	PM Major
Thurs.	3:30	**9:35**	3:45	**10:00**
Fri.	4:15	**10:20**	4:30	**10:45**
Sat.	5:00	**11:00**	5:10	**11:25**
Sun.	5:40	**11:45**	5:55	—
Mon.	6:20	**12:05**	6:45	**12:35**
Tues.	7:10	**12:55**	7:40	**1:25**
Wed.	8:00	**1:50**	8:30	**2:15**
Thurs.	8:55	**2:45**	9:25	**3:10**

There are 28 great reasons to see your Grady-White dealer right now.



Trophy 25-foot day fisherman



Dual Console 22's and 24's

Walkaround cabins from 20 to 25 feet.

The 27 new Grady-White's for 1983 are now arriving.

If you're looking for a super fishing boat in the 19 to 25 foot range, check out the 1983 Grady-White line at your local Grady-White dealership. Designed by fishermen for fishermen, these boats are the state-of-the-art in compact sportfishing design.

Now, in stock, at off-season prices.

There's never been a better time to select the Grady-White boat that's right for you. All 27 models are available from the Grady-White dealerships listed below. With lower interest rates and off-season pricing, now's the time to move up to Grady-White.

So, visit your local dealer. With 27 super models and off-season pricing, you've got 28 great reasons to see him today.

GRADY-WHITE BOATS

NEW YORK

Suffolk Marine Center, Inc.
Babylon, NY 11702
(516) 669-0907

Shelter Cove Marina
Bronx, NY 10465
(212) 822-3054

Hobby Land Marine, Inc.
Hampton Bays, LI, NY 11946
(516) 728-4313

Port of Egypt Marine
Southold, LI, NY 11971
(516) 765-2445

Sport Boats, Inc.
Huntington, NY 11743
(516) 421-3717

Zoller Service
Croton-On-Hudson, NY 10520
(914) 271-8803

Eddie's Marine Service
Far Rockaway, NY 11691
(212) 327-3168

The state-of-the-art in compact sportfishermen.